WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 10 — THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION — FEBRUARY 2004

The Prosecution of Captain Yee

Tom Wright

Of all the lives heedlessly trampled underfoot in the Bush-Ashcroft Stampede On Terror, few stories can compare in their tawdry shabbiness, their sheer petty vindictiveness, to the treatment of U.S. Army Capt. James J. Yee. Perhaps he simply stood out as too much of an oddity, even by the individualistic standard of today's Army of One. Maybe in the strange circumstance he landed in, it was inevitable that he would become a target of the general intolerance.

The son of Chinese immigrants, raised a Lutheran in Springfield, N.J., Yee was a West Point graduate and a Gulf War veteran, having served in a Patriot missile battalion in Saudi Arabia. After the war, he settled in Syria, where for four years he studied Islam and Arabic, and where he met his wife Huda, the daughter of Palestinian refugees of the 1948 exodus. Later he would rejoin the Army, this time in a very different role, and as a real rarity: of the military's 3150 chaplains, he was to be one of only 12 Muslims. His position was to thrust him into prominence in the aftermath of Sept. 11, when the government recruited him for a public relations role, conducting media interviews to show that the War on Terror was not anti-Islamic. Soon he would get a first hand look at that war.

From his assignment at the 29th Signal Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., he was deployed in November, 2002 to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, Cuba. There he was to attend to the spiritual needs of the 660 "enemy combatants", mostly from the Afghanistan war, dropped into a legal Black Hole so dense that not even their names could escape its pull, and from which no sign of hope or recourse to international jurisprudence could be detected on the mainland. It is unrecorded whether or not Yee sensed the irony of his setting: Act I of the War on Terror played out on the stage of Castro's Cuba, with scarcely a chance to change costumes after the Cold War.

The island inmates were tagged "the worst of the worst" (Rear Admiral John Stufflebeem), "devoted to killing millions of Americans" (Dick Cheney). But as Nicholas M. Horock and Anwar Iqbal argue in *Mother Jones*, "it appears that many, perhaps most, inmates" are merely "Taliban cannon fodder and other small fish." David Cole points out in his book *Enemy Aliens* that after the 1991 Gulf War, in the golden days when the status of captured prisoners was determined by factual hearings, two in three were found not to have been involved in combat at all. "Surely it is possible, indeed likely", he says, "that in the chaos of the Afghanistan battlefield, the military picked up some individuals who were not combatants." But we cannot know, Bush having declined any opportunity to present evidence of innocence. And so they wait out their days in the tropical heat, forgotten amidst the barbed wire, the reptiles and the frequent suicide attempts.

Here Capt. Yee carried out his duties, and what his own views were he has kept close to his vest. Some hints, though, have appeared in the press, like this report in the *L.A. Times*, quoting Father Raymond Tetreault, a Catholic priest who served with Yee in the Camp last year. The priest "said Yee alone spoke Arabic and spent the most time with the detainees." "He could go into the detention cell areas and talk to different ones…He was called by the guards when there were problems. So he did go in there, and he would go and visit them on a regular basis.

"Sometimes, the priest recalled, Yee would scold guards for upsetting detainees by doing things such as picking up copies of the Koran in prisoners' cells. Yee, he said, would explain to the guards that it was forbidden for 'infidels' to touch the holy book."

In 1971 the Stanford Prison Experiment showed us how an ordinary group of college students, randomly assigned to the role of guard or prisoner, could in no time at all jettison their middle-class pretensions, revive some atavistic impulse lurking in their brain stems, and abandon themselves to a sordid hierarchy of Foucaultian domination. If that's the outcome in Palo Alto, then consider what kinds of attitudes are possible if

(Continued page 4)

They Have Imprisoned The Gazebo In Sylvester Park

"Long Hair" David

It's their answer to everything: if you can't control it, lock it up. As our country becomes more controlled, we are moving in the same direction as the prison system, a facsimile of the move from a minimum security prison facility to a medium security prison. We continue to build more prisons and jails. More gated housing projects are springing up every year. Oh sweet, sweet liberty where are you going? It's just like that new super prison/jail they're proposing to build. No alternative approaches, no constructive consideration to the problems at hand, just build more locked down facilities. No dialogue with the community, just chains and bars. What's next, Constantine wire?

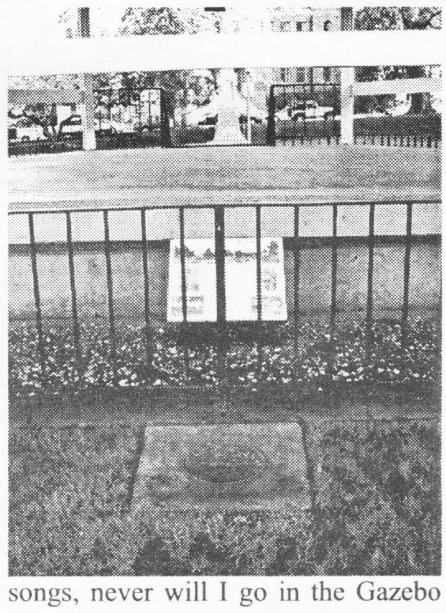
Ever since 9-11, our personal liberties have been under attack, and people have been giving them up left and right, without even so much as asking why. We can invade and make war on Iraq, all in the name of freedom, even if we have to shove it down their throats. We're going to give them freedom no matter how many innocent women and children die. And, by God, our Gazebo won't be used anymore by those terrible homeless, skateboarding punks, Food Not Bombs people, and the lot of us city pariahs. It is now there only for the advantaged, so we undesirables can stand in the rain. They have now built a standing memorial to the loss of free space in this town.

I can remember in 1991 when I came to Olympia, I went to my first Leonard Peltier rally, where someone was talking about this man in prison, and to tell you the truth I had never heard of him before. I have learned so much about all kinds of social justice issues from attending things that have gone on at the Gazebo; in a way it has been a learning center for many of us. I remember when I was walking through the park once with this girl Frankie Lou, yeah for real, it was raining and was about 11:00 pm and we were up in the Gazebo kissing. For those of you that have been around this town, you will remember there was no curfew posted then.

I can remember so many events that have taken place around the Gazebo in that park. How many times have I joined my friends for an impromptu candle light vigil or a rally called together because some gay youth got beat up? What about Bob? Yeah when they killed Bob in the tunnel, we gathered there the night we heard, and lit candles, and talked about how terrible it was. I just sat across from him at the old Bread and Roses the day before — no not the Bread and Roses they just shut down, don't get me started on that — back when it used to be in the alley behind Smithfield's. Yeah he was sitting right across from me, I barely knew the kid, and the next day he was murdered in the tunnel. You see the Gazebo was a gathering spot for all kinds of events, so many I can't even count. That place was the rallying point where things would come together; at times the Gazebo was a soap box of free speech, the very pinnacle of freedom's song in Olympia. Now there it sits locked up like some criminal element.

You have taken something of great value from me and locked it behind bars, and it will never be a free space again. My heart oscillates between great anger and sadness, because so many people do not see the terrible tragedy of it, so many people walking by and never did they kiss their gal in the Gazebo, never did they share food there, never have they gone and sat with their friends to listen to bands play, like Citizens Band and Sandman do his white boy rap

You stole it from me; you have desecrated something sacred, something that most of you with decision-making power never even use.



songs, never will I go in the Gazebo again, not while it is a prisoner of these control freaks and my heart cries. I vow now before all of you that I will never attend another music event or rally or any other event without shame in my heart because I sat by and let this travesty happen.

My anger stems from the total powerlessness I feel to stop this, to free that Gazebo from its bounds; it's now like Prometheus chained. I can't for the life of me figure out how to tear down that fence. You see I know these stubborn bastards behind this; they're so anal-retentive that they are standing back thinking they have done us some sort of good service for the community. I'm no good at talking to these establishment

(Continued page 10)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or you aren't submitting it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, February 20th

WIP Meeting

Call 956-1168 for more info

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A Correction and Apology

Last month we printed a book report entitled, "*The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?*" and mistakenly cited the author of the *book*, Joel Kovel, as the author of the *article*. Our apologies to Dave Zink, who wrote the book review.

MARCH AND RALLY FOR JUSTICE

Sat., Feb. 7, at 1:00 PM at the Federal Court House at 1717 Pacific Ave.

Caravan from Olympia: Meet at 10:45 AM at Media Island, 816 Adams St.

WIP Seeking Back-up Layout Volunteer

Interested in putting your PageMaker skills to use for social change? Then give us a call at 956-1168 or come to our next meeting January 23 at 11:00 AM at Traditions!

WIP Needs Distributors!

We have a couple of distribution routes in need of drivers. Interested in a small but essential volunteering role at WIP? Then call us at 956-1168 or come to our next meeting January 23 at 11:00 Am at Traditions!

Maria Cain Speaks on Corporate Tax Loopholes

Every two years, Washington State gives over $45 billion dollars in State and local tax exemptions to private individuals and companies. This creates a perpetual crisis in our state's budget. It shifts the tax burden away from those most capable of paying, and onto the backs of the rest of us, while funding for essential state services comes up short. Maria Cain has sifted through reams of Department of Revenue figures and other information to determine the full extent of corporate welfare through tax loopholes. Her work, funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, involved examining Washington State's publicly funded international trade promotion activity. This led to an examination of the states economic conditions and the state budget. Her work has been in collaboration with the Harrison Institute for Public Law at Georgetown University Law Center.

Maria Cain will be in Olympia for a presentation on her findings (rescheduled from last month). You are invited:

Noon, Feb. 25 at the General Administration Building auditorium on the capitol campus.

This presentation is brought to you by the Washington Federation of State Employees.

(Continued Page 15)

BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

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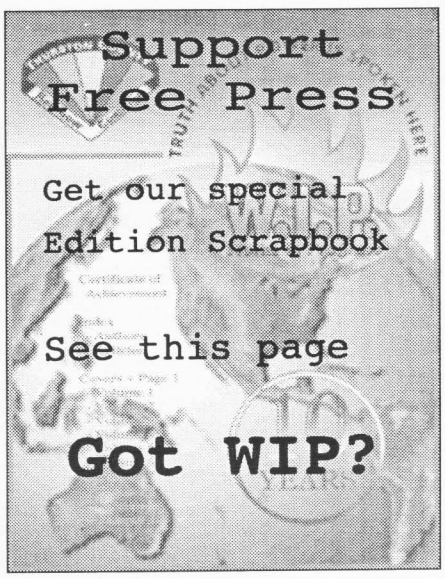

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FEBRUARY 2004

Who do voodoo?
(or the chickenhawk hocus pocus)

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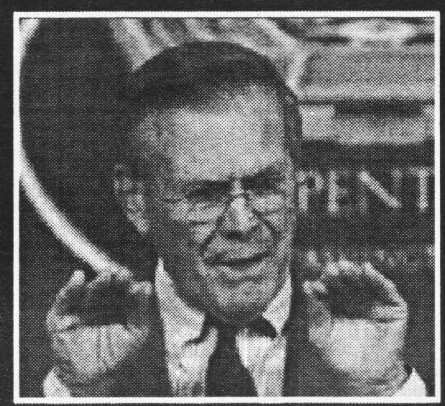
2.

3.



4.

Why the Pentagon's evil eye is locked on Syria

- Syria is accused of harboring insurgents who cross into Iraq to attack US troops/allies
- No need to look for WMDs since Syria has admitted to their existence and is now rumored to have Iraq's WMDs as well
- Rumy claims Syria's Assad is in collusion with Grand Ayatollah Ali Husseini al Sistani, Iraqi cleric who insists on direct elections
- Long hated by neo-cons, Syria has tried to lay low, but likely could never lay low enough

Sources: *Jane's Intelligence Digest; Knight Ridder; AFP; The American Conservative*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1979: Patricia Hearst is released after Carter commutes sentence 2003: Columbia space shuttle breaks up during re-entry	**2** 1909: US troops quit Cuba after installing Jose Miguel Gomez 2002: WA state claims 13% of replacement wetlands successful	**3** 1908: Supreme Court rules Union-sponsored boycotts illegal 1904: Colombian troops clash with US Marines in Panama	**4** 2003: Olympia oks 90,000 to re-examine $ impact of conf center 2003: Saddam states US just wants to "control the world"	**5** 2003: Powell presents US case against Iraq before UN Sec Council 2003: Officials announce build up of US troops in Persian Gulf	**6** 2003: Bush signs directive ordering creation of guidelines for launching cyber-attacks against enemy computer networks	**7** 2002: Bush: captives in Cuba not POWs 2003: Bush says UN must "make up its mind soon...and I mean it."
8 2003: Rumsfeld says those who oppose invasion undermining chance to avoid war 2003: Polls claim 7 in 10 support invasion	**9** 2003: UN inspectors sense Iraq has become more cooperative 2003: Powell asks China to push N Korea to end nuclear activities	**10** 2003: S Korea says N Korea has no nukes; US must open direct talks 2003: Dept of Homeland Security recommends duct tape	**11** 2003: Bush wants end $50 rent cap for federal housing assistance 2003: S Korea asks European Union to facilitate US/ N Korea talks	**12** 2003: Experts claim duct tape offers little protection from attacks 2003: Protests turn into bloody riots in La Paz Bolivia; 16 killed	**13** 2002: WA House oks collective bargaining bill for state workers 2003: US House oks bill requiring more of recipients to take jobs	**14** 2002: Locke announces $54 million in welfare cuts to pay for increased demand for public assistance and subsidized child care
15 1851: Blk abolitionists raid Boston courtroom, rescue a fugitive slave 2003: 2,500 in Olympia, millions worldwide rally against war	**16** 2001: Bush bombs Iraq for 1st time; 1 woman killed, 11 wounded 2003: NATO agrees to send aid to Turkey if it is attacked by Iraq	**17** 1998: Federal judge rules TX ranchers have no case against Oprah 2003: Israel warns of intent to seize Bethlehem to build wall	**18** 1903: IL legislator tries to bar football in state 2003: Bush says protests won't sway him 18, 2003: WA st ranks 10th in US hunger rate	**19** 1942: FDR signs order to suspect persons from war zones 1999: Feds announce 1998 trade deficit highest ever; $168.8 billion	**20** 2003: Trade deficit for 2002 reached record $435.2 billion 2003: Officials say US to take total control of Iraq following invasion	**21** 1965: Malcolm X slain in NY City 2003: Chirac reports African nations support weapon inspections, not war
22 1996: Lowery says he won't run for 2nd term - too few liberals 2003: Kevin O'Sullivan finally joins the Republican Party	**23** 2003: US embassies around the world report people around the world think George Bush a greater threat than Saddam Hussein	**24** 2003: Olympia Planning votes to allow city residents to have 3 hens 2003: Saddam Hussein challenges Bush to a televised debate	**25** 2000: DOE decides to make Hanford a national dump site 2003: MSNBC fires Phil Donahue for 6 months of poor ratings	**26** 2003: UN weapons inspector Blix claims Iraq is failing to comply 2003: WA House oks bill banning mercury-containing devices	**27** 1939: Supreme Court rules sit-down strikes unconstitutional 2003: Olympia threatens to shut off water to Forest Glen in two days	**28** 2003: Iraq announces it will begin to destroy its Al Samoud 2 missiles 2003: 9th Circuit Court won't reconsider its ruling on the Pledge
29 1960: White House says US kids too fat 1984: Pierre Trudeau announces resignation 2000: Gore, Bush win Washington primary						

...five hours after American Airlines Flight 77 plowed into the Pentagon, Rumsfeld was telling his aides to come up with plans for striking Iraq — even though there was no evidence linking Saddam Hussein to the attacks. *CBS News*

...the real reasons for occupation of Iraq—more bases from which to flex U.S. muscle with Syria and Iran, better positioning for the inevitable fall of the regional sheikdoms, maintaining OPEC on a dollar track, and fulfilling a half-baked imperial vision.

Lt Col Karen Kwiatkowski, ret

(The Prosecution of Captain Yee, Continued)

one thinks he is guarding the 9/11 planners, and with the virtual impunity afforded by the secretive location? And what view would attach to a Muslim chaplain suspected of sympathy with them?

On September 10, 2003, Yee's wife Huda drove to Sea-Tac Airport to meet her husband, due to return for family leave. He never got off the plane. For ten frantic days, she would try to locate him, but the Army would tell her nothing. Only from the media would she learn his fate, when the Army leaked the news to the right-wing *Washington Times*. Yee had been arrested on suspicion of espionage, and his military lawyers had been told to prepare a death penalty defense. Detained after his flight from Cuba to Florida, he was blindfolded and driven to a military brig in South Carolina. There he spent the next seventy-six days, much of it in solitary confinement and in manacles and leg-irons, while television satellite trucks parked in front of his parents' New Jersey home and erected another outpost of the global panopticon.

And what were the charges, incidentally, that could lead the West Point graduate to the gallows? His lawyers (and the media) got the story that he carried in his luggage notebooks containing prisoners' names, a sketch of the prison compound, and unspecified information about Syria. Maybe it wasn't a newly awarded flight school diploma, but in the current hysteria it did suffice to land him in the same brig as the nation's most notorious accused terrorists. The technical charges: two counts of ''failing to obey a lawful general order,'' specifically taking classified material and ''wrongfully transporting classified material without the proper security containers or covers.''

At first the government claimed that Yee's search and arrest at the Florida air station arose from his own suspicious behavior. (He supposedly denied having luggage with him; his lawyer explained that at the time he was escorting a child from Cuba to the care of another adult in a different part of the airport, and he didn't have his luggage with him just then.) But the government later abandoned that pretense and admitted that FBI agents were already in waiting for him, having received a "tip" from the Army, which had put Yee under surveillance.

Yee and his lawyers argued that the materials he carried were just his own notes about prisoners he counseled, and the material on Syria was a term paper he was writing as part of a graduate class he was taking. But the stew thickened with the arrests over the next few weeks of two more men at the base with whom Yee was known to have visited socially. Senior Airman Ahmad I. Al-Halabi, a translator, was arrested on suspicion of espionage, and on September 29 another translator, Ahmed F. Mehalba, like Yee, was charged with possessing classified information.

The media were dutiful. Official leaks were handed off to the press, and reporters dashed the length of the field to their foregone conclusions. The L.A. Times explained that the three ("all Muslims") possessed classified material "possibly to give it to outside terrorist networks." The sensitive ear detects the Freudian overtone in official qualms "that Al Qaeda may have managed to penetrate what was supposed to be an impregnable prison." But the real fears, deep in the hearts of men, may be gleaned from this item, actually printed in Airman Al-Halabi's court papers and no doubt included so as to seal his doom:

It is enough merely to have lived in an unapproved country, or to have expressed out loud an opinion that would not be heard on the Evening News with Dan Rather, to lend credence to capital espionage charges against a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"While at Guantanamo Bay, "Al-Halabi made statements criticizing United States policy with regard to the detainees and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.... He has also expressed sympathy for and has had unauthorized contact with the detainees, including providing unauthorized items of comfort to the detainees."

This statement, which was widely reported, does not seem to have attracted the attention of many civil liberties scholars or other antiquarians, but it has implications worth pursuing. It is of a kind with this syllogism, also from the *L.A. Times*: "There are indications that the chaplain, Army Capt. James Joseph Yee...who spent some years in Syria before returning to the United States, may have become sympathetic with the plight of the Muslim detainees." In other words, it is enough merely to have lived in an unapproved country, or to have expressed out loud an opinion that would not be heard on the Evening News with Dan Rather, to lend credence to capital espionage charges against a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In reality, one need only be a member of—oh you know— that race or religion. Or as the New York Times put it (ever so delicately) the problem at the base was just that "some senior officers at Guantanamo were skeptical about the wisdom of having Muslims and Arab-Americans involved in the interrogations of prisoners and other camp operations, and there was smoldering suspicion over what they were doing when they met with one another".

Well, like a bad sequel to a bad movie, it just keeps getting worse. There was the small embarrassment about Col. Jack Farr of Army Intelligence, who was also charged with "wrongfully transporting classified material without the proper security container," but who for some reason was not blindfolded, thrown into solitary confinement or publicly linked to Osama bin Laden. In fact, he was not even arrested, but we are assured that this had nothing to do with his being a non-Muslim. Then the military prosecutors themselves committed the very same offense, when they mailed to one of Yee's attorneys documents that later turned out to be classified. (They did not arrest themselves.)

Then there was the small problem of the government's repeated delays in Yee's court martial hearing, to complete a "classification review." (Translation: "Gosh, it seems that maybe we never got around to actually classifying that information. We'll check.") Then most of the charges against Airman Al-Halabi were dropped. And at last, the espionage scenario embroidered around James Yee unraveled. Yee still faces minor charges on the documents possession, but the government knows he is no security risk, which they demonstrated conclusively when they released him on his own recognizance on November 25.

With his career over, his name smeared with the charge of disloyalty and terrorism, his family left to face the neighbors who no longer make eye contact, what would now be the course taken by the institution he served, i.e. the mighty Armed Forces of the World's Only Superpower? You were correct if you answered: "destroy him in front of his family and religious community, too".

With his career over, his name smeared with the charge of disloyalty and terrorism, his family left to face the neighbors who no longer make eye contact, what would now be the course taken by the institution he served, i.e. the mighty Armed Forces of the World's Only Superpower? You were correct if you answered: "destroy him in front of his family and religious community, too". And so, anon, he was charged with committing adultery and viewing pornography on a government computer. His court martial hearing was held, with his wife and young daughter in the courtroom, and it dealt entirely with the sexual charges against him. Every lurid detail was pointlessly included.

This is not only about humiliation: with the new sex charges added, Yee faces a maximum of thirteen years in prison. To truly see the intentional cruelty behind these charges, consider their context.

For the last two years, the military has brought adultery charges only when attached to a serious crime like rape. By Executive Order, military law was modified in 2002 to limit adultery prosecutions. By the signature of President Bush himself these cases would henceforth be pressed only when the conduct was "directly prejudicial to good order and discipline or service discrediting". Neither condition applied to Yee's case. Why the revision? Recall the name 1st Lt. Kelly Flinn. She was the Air Force's first female B-52 bomber pilot, and back in 1997 there was quite an outcry when she was forced to accept a general discharge after revelations of an affair with a married man. Women's groups pointed to, well, a certain double standard that seemed to operate.

Sure enough, only a few months later, Four-star Gen. Joseph Ralston was nominated as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But before he could be installed, the same little story surfaced about him! And darned if every man from the Secretary of Defense on down just could not understand what all the fuss was about. Of course General Ralston was passed over for that job, and someone else, someone of unimpeachable moral character, was put in charge of bombing defenseless countries.

Now I, for one, will withhold my protest if the worst thing that happens to Capt. Yee is that he gets overlooked during the next vacancy at the Joint Chiefs. But as for the rest of it, this depraved spectacle that turns James Yee and his family into just another bit of collateral damage, that reminds all American Muslims of their place in this country, it simply degrades and shames us all.

Chris Stegman

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Patriot Act Watch

Airline Security System to be Implemented, Privacy in Even More Peril; Los Angeles, Atlanta & St. Paul, MN Stand Up for Civil Liberties; Federal Court Rules Part of Patriot Act Unconstitutional

Howard Rosenfeld

For the first time a federal judge has ruled portions of the USA Patriot Act are unconstitutional. In a report released Monday, January 26th, U.S. District Judge Audrey Collins ruled unconstitutional one provision that bans certain types of support for terrorist groups.

The case was filed by the Humanitarian Law Project which gave "human rights" training to the Kurdistan Workers Party, which is designated a terrorist group by the U.S. government. David Cole, professor and author of Enemy Aliens and Nancy Chang of the Center for Constitutional Rights argued the case.

Three large cities, Los Angeles, Atlanta and St. Paul, MN, are amongst the latest group of municipalities to pass resolutions against the Patriot Act and in support of civil liberties. The total number of cities, counties or states who have anti-Patriot act resolutions on the books is now at 238.

While the resolution-passing has slowed down in January, there have been a significant number of developments with regards to the Patriot Act, John Ashcroft's aggressive policing tactics and resistance to these efforts.

Most recently, a federal appeals court granted the Bush administration's request to delay an order that would force the government to release Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen imprisoned as an enemy combatant. The stay, issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, gives the government time to pursue its case before the nation's highest court while Jose Padilla, an American citizen, remains imprisoned in a military jail.

Bills to roll back the powers of the Patriot Act, such as the SAFE Act of 2003 and the Benjamin Franklin True Patriot Act, are still gathering co-sponsors. Visit the Bill of Rights Defense Committee website (www.bordc.org/legislation.htm) to get a complete list of these bills and their status. Meanwhile, during his State of the Union speech, President Bush started calls for renewal of the Patriot Act, of which many provisions begin to expire this year.

Despite stiff resistance from airlines and privacy advocates, the U.S. government plans to push ahead this year with a vast computerized system to probe the backgrounds of all passengers boarding flights in the United States. The government will compel airlines and airline reservations companies to hand over all passenger records for scrutiny by U.S. officials, after failing to win cooperation in the program's testing phase. The order could be issued as soon as next month. Under the system, all travelers passing through a U.S. airport are to be scored with a number and a color that ranks their perceived threat to the aircraft. A "red" rating means a passenger will be prohibited from boarding, "Yellow" indicates that a passenger will receive additional scrutiny at the checkpoint and a "green" rating paves the way for a standard trip through security – wanna know which list you're on or how you got there? Too bad. It's a secret.

And to make this program look even worse, two MIT students wrote a paper in May of 2002 which shows that since the new security system, called CAPS, uses profiles to select passengers for increased scrutiny, it is actually less secure than systems that employ random searches. Find the paper here: http://www.swiss.ai.mit.edu/6805/student-papers/spring02-papers/caps.htm

Wanna know which list you're on or how you got there? Too bad. It's a secret.

Another program that is to be introduced this year seeks to speed frequent fliers through security lines in exchange for volunteering personal information to the government. The two new initiatives will augment a system introduced last week to fingerprint and photograph millions of foreign visitors on arrival in the United States.

Angered by the fingerprinting of all foreign visitors to the U.S., Brazil decided to reciprocate by fingerprinting U.S. citizens, and apparently an American pilot, Dale Robbin Hirsh, didn't like it very much. He was arrested Jan. 14 after flipping the bird to Brazilian agents; he was charged with showing disrespect to authorities, a crime that can carry a six-month to two-year jail sentence. Ooops!

The case against scholar, Sami Al-Arian of the University of South Florida, is shaping up to be a test of the Patriot Act. Al-Arian, Sammeh Hammoudeh, Hatim Naji Fariz and Ghassan Zayed Ballut face trial in January 2005 on charges they used an academic think tank, a Muslim school and a charity as cover for raising money for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Recent news reports describe the problem created by the volume of evidence collected on Al-Arian and his colleagues. It includes 21,000 hours of intercepted phone calls and boxes of documents, mostly in Arabic. Prosecutors say they will provide translation on the small portion of the conversations they consider relevant to their accusations. But that didn't appease William B. Moffitt, Al-Arian's defense attorney.

"The idea that the government tells me something is not relevant generally means we want to look at it," Moffitt said.

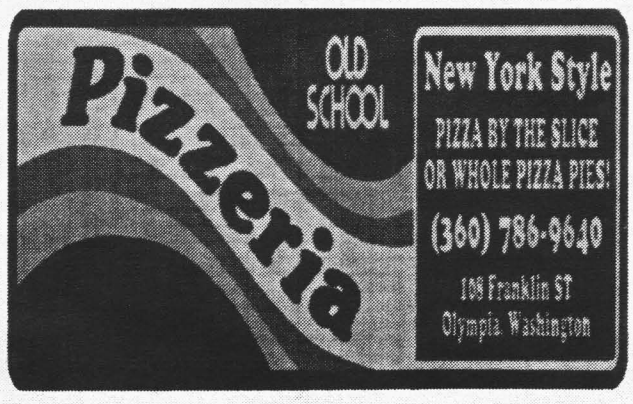
John Ashcroft has seen his fair share of controversy this month. In December, he recused himself yesterday from a politically charged investigation into the leak of an undercover CIA officer's identity, Valerie Plame, and his deputy announced the appointment of a special prosecutor in the case. Now, the case will be overseen by his Chicago-based protégé, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald.

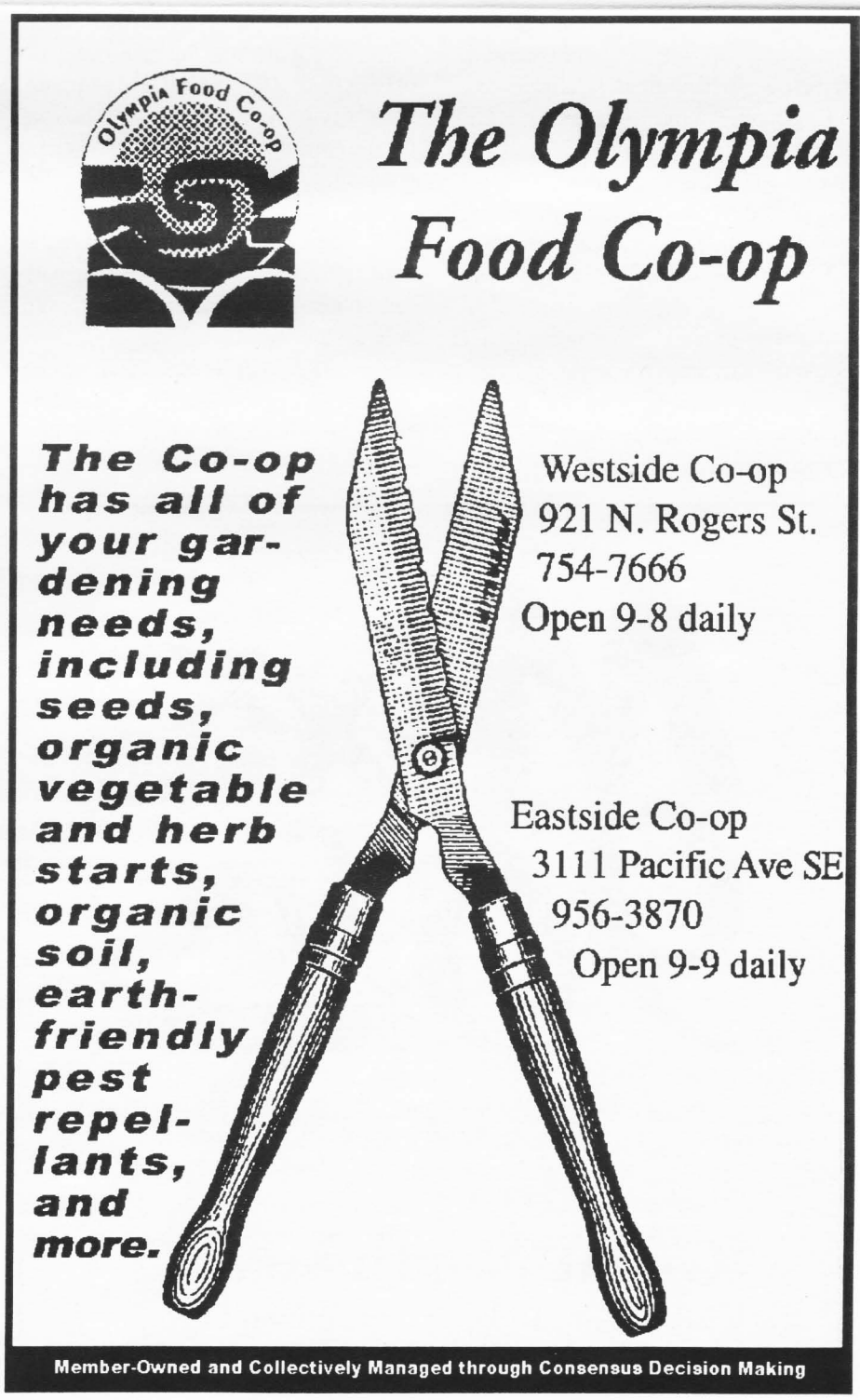
Five public interest groups have asked the Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to open a criminal investigation of election law violations allegedly committed by Ashcroft's campaign during his unsuccessful 2000 Senate reelection campaign. Garrett M. Lott, treasurer for the two Ashcroft committees, the Spirit of America PAC and Ashcroft 2000, agreed last month to pay a $37,000 fine for at least four violations of federal campaign laws and agreed "not to contest" the charges.

Finally, in a shocking and as-yet unsolved domestic terrorism case, a federal raid in April 2003 found nearly half a million rounds of ammunition, more than 60 pipe bombs, machine guns, silencers and remote-controlled bombs disguised as briefcases. Pamphlets on how to make chemical weapons and anti-Semitic, anti-black and anti-government books were also discovered.

William Krar and Judith Bruey built an arsenal in three rented storage units in this rural East Texas town and federal authorities still don't know why. Federal authorities became interested in Krar when he sent a package to a self-described militia member in New Jersey that didn't make it to the intended recipient. Instead, it was mistakenly delivered to a Staten Island, NY man. The package included several phony documents - United Nations and Defense Department ID cards, a social security card, birth certificates from three states - and a note: "We would hate to have this fall into the wrong hands."

Critics of the investigation contend the government and media are so focused on foreign terror threats that they overlook domestic terror dangers. "I have no doubt whatsoever that had these men been affiliated with al-Qaida, we would have heard more," said Daniel Levitas, author of the book "The Terrorist Next Door: The Militia Movement and the Radical Right." "There is something of a blind spot within the Justice Department in Washington D.C. when it comes to the violent potential of America's own homegrown version of al-Qaida."

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Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)

Taken from the IRV website

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is a winner-take-all system that both protects majority rule and allows minority participation. It is a sensible alternative to both the plurality voting system and the two-round runoff system used in most American elections for offices held by a single representative, such as a president, governor, mayor or district representative.

In plurality voting, a voter casts one vote for a candidate, and the candidate who obtains the most votes wins the election. If more than two candidates run, however, the winner may receive less than 50 percent of the vote, and one of the candidates may be perceived as a "spoiler." In two-round runoffs, the top two candidates face off in a second of rounding to produce a majority winner. But runoffs are expensive for both taxpayers and candidates who must pay for two elections. Instant runoff voting shares the advantage of plurality voting of only requiring a single election, but shares the advantages of two-round runoffs in ensuring a majority winner and eliminating fear of "spoilers."

How IRV works. When voters go to the polls, they cast a vote for their favorite candidate, but also specify their runoff choice. Voters specify these choices by ranking preferred candidates in order of choice: first choice, second choice, third choice and so on. If a candidate wins a majority of first choices, that candidate has earned victory with majority support. But if no candidate has such strong support, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated, and a second round of counting takes places. The votes of supporters of the eliminated candidate are not "wasted." Instead, their vote counts for their next favorite candidate as indicated on their ranked ballot, just as if they were voting for their second choice in a runoff. In each round of voting, a voter's ballot counts for whichever remaining candidate is ranked highest on the ballot. Eventually one candidate emerges as a majority winner.

Imagine that IRV had been used in the national tally of the 1992 presidential election, in which Bill Clinton won 43% of the vote, George Bush 38% and Ross Perot 19%. Since no candidate received an outright majority of first choices, the instant runoff would have taken place. The major candidate with the fewest votes, Perot, would have been eliminated, just as if he hadn't qualified for the second round of a traditional two round runoff. In the next round of voting, supporters of Clinton and Bush would have been able to keep supporting their favorite candidate, but Perot supporters would have had their vote count for their runoff choice, either Bush or Clinton. This second round would have produced a majority winner for president in a single election.

IRV promotes positive, issue-oriented campaigns and coalition-building because candidates know that winning may require being the runoff choice of their opponents' supporters.

Arguments for IRV: IRV is like holding a two-round runoff, but all with one vote. In addition to saving taxpayers millions of dollars in election costs, the instant runoff has several other important benefits:

· IRV promotes positive, issue-oriented campaigns and coalition-building because candidates know that winning may require being the runoff choice of their opponents' supporters.

· When replacing two-round runoff elections, IRV is effective campaign finance reform because candidates won't need to raise more money for a second election

· IRV removes the "spoiler effect" whereby minor party or independent candidates knock off major party candidates, increasing the choices available to the voters.

· IRV maximizes voter turnout because it encourages more candidacies (candidates don't have to be concerned about being tagged as "spoilers"), and voters don't have to return to the polls for special runoff elections.

· IRV all but eliminates the "lesser of two evils" problems, since voters can vote for their favorite candidate, knowing that if their first choice doesn't win, their vote will not be wasted.

While IRV can appear on paper to be a sensible solution to the problems of plurality voting or two-round run-offs, certain problems can arise. First, the system is simple for voters, but there is an initial education hurdle to explain the importance of ranking candidates. Second, voters accustomed to plurality elections might be disturbed if the candidate with the largest share of first choice votes was defeated in a later round of counting. Third, many older voting machines cannot be used for IRV, and upgrading vote-counting equipment to handle ranked ballots can be costly. Still, IRV is gathering more attention in the United States as a simple and cost-effective solution to the defects of plurality and two-round runoff elections.

Where IRV is used: IRV has been used for many years to elect Australia's Lower House, the Republic of Ireland's president, and a number of other official bodies. IRV is also used to elect the mayor of London and in 1998 was recommended by the Jenkins commission to elect the UK's House of Commons. In the United States, IRV has been seriously considered for a number of U.S. states and municipalities – most vigorously in Vermont, where the League of Women Voters and Common Cause have endorsed it for statewide elections, and in Alaska, where an initiative has qualified for the 2002 ballot to change state legislative and federal elections to IRV — and it is used to elect the president of the American Political Science Association.

For more information about Instant Runoff Voting visit http://www.fixour.us/multimedia.html .

Instant Runoff Voting Initiative

Faced with the imminent loss of the blanket primary and the threat of the Louisiana primary (which would allow only two candidates per race to advance to the general election), the Board of the Coalition for Instant Runoff Voting has unanimously decided to prepare a state initiative.

These are the components:

1. Abolish primary elections.
2. Use full IRV in the general election, allowing voters to rank *all* the candidates.
3. Keep the current rules for party labels.

If we are to attempt such a feat, I would like to have pledges for collecting at least the first 50,000 signatures.° 200,000 valid signatures is what the initiative would need to qualify for the ballot.

I'll start the bidding off with my pledge to collect at least 2500 signatures. Do I hear another 2500?

—Brent White, Chair WA IRV coalition, peaceseeker_@hotmail.com

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What I Saw in Miami

Cory Fischer-Hoffman

This past November, Miami shut down trade and militarized the city in preparation to host the 9th Ministerial of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The Free Trade Area of the Americas is a proposed trade agreement that looks to bind the Western Hemisphere (except Cuba) into an overly ambitious extension of the dismal North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Following in the NAFTA legacy, the FTAA would extend and expedite the race to the bottom in Hemispheric environmental and labor standards, while furthering corporate power and weakening democracy. In solidarity with the growing social movements of resistance throughout Latin America, popular movements are rising to challenge these undemocratic negotiations by highlighting their illegitimacy through civil disobedience, political dissent, and direct action.

Many groups and movements have been mobilizing around the FTAA since its conception, nearly ten years ago. In Miami, where the most recent trade talks took place, the city fittingly illustrated the affect that the FTAA would have on the hemisphere. Miami is the poorest US city with a population over 150,000. Miami has the highest racial income disparity; it is a service economy based on labor from an impoverished and marginalized population, while it is also home to Right-Wing Latin American exiles and capitalist elites. The only way to control such startling levels of inequality is through the presence of a police state that can protect the interests of those who hold power. The police state that the residents of Miami live with constantly was funded, armed, and applauded by federal and local policy makers and is being championed as the new model for "showing remarkable restraint" while crushing dissent.

The only way to control such startling levels of inequality is through the presence of a police state that can protect the interests of those who hold power ... The connection between the war abroad, and the war on dissent within the US is no longer covert.

My experience with the "Miami model" showed many things, but restraint is not one that comes to mind. The overwhelming police-presence and the excessive use of force are not the only aspects that characterize the "Miami model" but they are perhaps what is most visible. Miami shows us three things: the war on terrorism is also a war on political dissent; the police state needed to maintain high levels of inequality are inherently linked to free trade; and, there is much to learn from the resistance strategy and movement building of local grassroots empowerment groups which culminated in the Root Cause March.

In the $87.7 billion Congress appropriated to continue funding the occupation in Iraq, $8.5 million was allocated for increased security in Miami. The connection between the war abroad, and the war on dissent within the US is no longer covert. When I speak of a police-state in Miami, I mean a city that has been completely militarized. People are subject to illegal searches, harassment, assault and being arrested and detained without charges. It was not uncommon to see lines of fifty police cars driving downtown; bike cops lurked around each corner, specialized tanks and helicopters scared off many business owners, who were persuaded to shut down for the week leading up to the demonstrations. Forty different departments collaborated in the systematic repression of political expression. All of this took place before the days of action. In fact, the city of Miami began with passing an un-democratic ordinance which revoked the right to peaceful assembly. The city denied countless collaborative efforts to provide housing for the thousands of protesters, and those who could not find housing were arrested and charged with felonies. Activists were questioned and detained while flyering local communities and small businesses. One activist was charged with "obstructing the sidewalk." The "Miami model" worked through legislative and enforcement cooperation in revoking the rights for peaceful assembly and brutally repressing those who rose to voice opposition. For the activists who descended on Miami, we witnessed the increased visibility of a police-state that never sleeps. The only difference during the November mobilization was that the $8.5 million in federal funding armed an already repressive force with countless new sub-lethal weapons. The War in Iraq has certainly come home.

As the city of Miami ironically shut down trade in order to promote "free" trade, there was no disillusionment by the Miami locals of how repressive the police force would be. On November 20th direct-action folks gathered to march to the fence (a strong symbol for the anti-democratic nature of these meetings), to shut down the city (which the police had taken care of days earlier), and to voice opposition to the FTAA. The early morning actions were inconclusive and frustrating. The streets of downtown Miami, which are normally full of the latest victims of corporate exploitation, privatization and other neo-liberal initiatives, were eerily empty. Any time we tried to hold an already deserted and militarized intersection, for no apparent strategic reason, we were gassed, tased, beaten and dispersed.

The police pushed us towards the Bayfront Amphitheater where the AFL-CIO rally took place. This location is temptingly close to the fence surrounding the InterContinental Hotel, where the delegates were meeting and it is the one place that direct action folks had promised Unions not to go, so as not to disturb their permitted march.

The AFL-CIO rally took place, and

Union Members declared solidarity with workers from around the world, with environmental and human rights activists, and with civil society participating in direct-action. The AFL-CIO march was a spirited event which only the police had the pleasure of witnessing. Most people participated in the march, with the exception of the Unions and retiree alliances that were not granted access despite prior negotiations with the police.

After the police reneged again, on one of the previously negotiated arrangements made with the AFL-CIO by changing their permitted route, a brave group of drummer's broke off and took a symbolic march to the fence which was being guarded by hundreds of armed officers. Seven hundred people jumped up, with the intent of, for the first time showing some unified message of opposition to the FTAA. On the front lines, I stared through the mask of an officer- into eyes that saw me as the enemy. I held a peace sign, and smiled. Within seconds, that same officer hit me in the face with his club, declaring, "Back! Back! Back!" After being gassed and pepper-sprayed, I retreated. As I was trying to escape the unprovoked attack, I was startled to see children, union members, retirees and families in areas which had unexpectedly become high-risk. People were pushed into Overtown which is an impoverished area of Miami that is not unfamiliar with this type of police repression. Community members offered water, transportation information, housing and moral support to fleeing activists. The interactions with Overtown community members remain to be some of the most encouraging parts of the FTAA mobilization.

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The Root Cause March which was organized by the Miami Worker's Center, Power U, the Coalition of Immokale workers, and the Free Carnival Area of the Americas, received similar support and encouragement as it marched 34 miles into Miami (one mile for each country involved in the FTAA). The marchers sported bright yellow T-shirts while highlighting the FTAA's effect on local communities, poor people and people of color throughout the hemisphere. The Root Cause March foresaw the repression in Miami, and used their legitimacy as groups who understand first-hand the affects of poverty, exploitation, and privatization to educate thousand of people about the FTAA, and voice and inspiring and colorful opposition. The Root Cause March was a huge success, and should be a model for future organizing, especially in police states.

November 20th ended with hundreds injured and arrested. The vast majority of those who suffered from severe injuries were people of color. In a jail solidarity action that took place the next day, I was one of the 93 people who were pepper-sprayed, beaten, and jailed while trying to disperse after our peaceful assembly was declared unlawful. Upon my release from jail I found a supportive community, Food Not Bombs prepared hot vegan food, legal observers helped us fill out police misconduct forms and many activists offered support to those who had traumatic experiences in jail. It reminded me that we are working for a world in which that support system exists for all peoples, in all times.

Now that I am back in Olympia, I cannot help to think of the arsenal that sits in Miami-Dade County, and the community members of Overtown who face that reality on a daily basis. In fighting the legal battles and the calls for justice in regard to the Miami mobilization we must see the repression, exploitation, marginalization, and oppression in Overtown as the center of the debate, and as "the root cause" of opposition to the free trade.

Thanks to all of the Olympia Community members that supported this mobilization, especially Oly Bloc, and to the residents of Overtown whose encouragement was the core of resistance in Miami.

My Friends Are Under Attack in Rafah

Emma Pearlman

On Tuesday, January 20, 2004, my friend's home was blown up with dynamite by the Israeli army. My friend Noura, her husband Abu Jameel and her three children are Palestinians who live in Rafah in the Southern Gaza Strip. This past summer I lived for two months in Rafah, and they were kind enough to house and feed me for much of my time there.

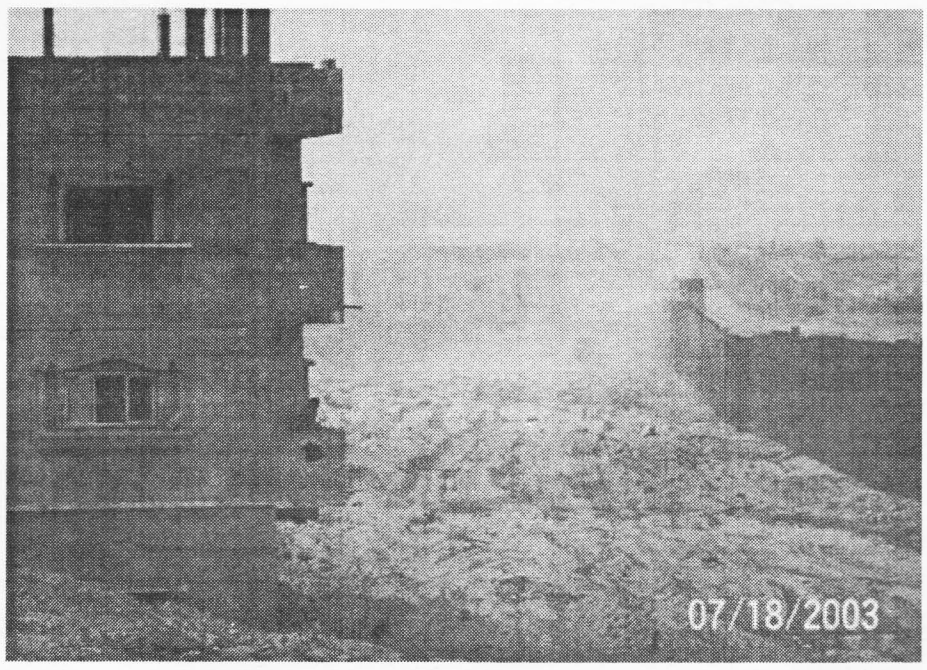
On January 20th the Israeli army invaded Noura's neighborhood called Salah-El-Din in Rafah. This neighborhood is along the border of the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Israeli army controls this border, and is at present constructing a twenty-four-foot steel wall along the border. Every night that I slept in homes along the border, tanks and bulldozers would drive by, patrolling the area. Machine gun fire erupted from the tanks and the military towers that are spaced out along the wall. Salah-El-Din, and the other areas along the Egyptian border are not war zones. They are neighborhoods very similar to those in Olympia where families sleep, eat, argue, watch television, and pray for a better world.

At four in the morning Noura and her family were told that they had five minutes to evacuate their home. They escaped and five minutes later the house was blown up with dynamite.

In addition to the constant terrorism inflicted on the families along the border, the Israeli army continues to methodically demolish and clear homes where the wall is being built. Over 1,000 family homes have been completely demolished in Rafah in the last three years, and over 2,000 partially demolished. Sometimes the army claims that tunnels are being built under homes along the border to smuggle items from Egypt to Rafah. Sometimes they don't even make up an excuse, or just use a built-up threat of terrorism the way our president does to exonerate any violent military action.

With a pretext of fighting terrorism, the Israeli army invaded Salah-El-Din neighborhood on the 20th of January. The army entered the area in tanks. At four in the morning Noura and her family were told that they had five minutes to evacuate their home. They escaped and five minutes later the house was blown up with dynamite. The army demolished twenty homes in the Salah-El-Din neighborhood, including the home of another friend of mine, Naela. The soldiers then imposed a curfew on the entire area, and used the top stories of several homes for sniper operations. After Noura and her family fled their home, they took refuge in Abu Jameel's sister's home down the street, and were then trapped in by the curfew while the army continued its violent operations.

Reading the account of the most recent Salah-El-Din invasion, I remembered the time that I spent in this neighborhood. I remembered evenings spent sitting with Noura and Abu Jameel on their deck as we listened to the sound of the gunshots hitting the side of their house. On one of these evenings Noura told us that only several years ago she had held her wedding party on the roof of their house. "We danced all night long on top of the house," she said with a wistful look on her face. A glowing red tracer lit the night sky as a bullet whizzed by the house. How different life must have been in Rafah just several years ago, before the recent Palestinian uprising and the increased violence in the Palestinian Territories by the Israeli army.



[View of the Separation Wall from the home of Noura, Abu Jameel and their three children before the home was demolished on January 20.]

[Emma Pearlman holds two year old Nancy in the child's family home, which was demolished on January 20.]

I am scared that while the governments of the world discuss roadmaps, peace plans, war plans, and invasions in abstract, the people of the world suffer. I am scared that the gentle friends I met in Rafah will be killed by the Israeli army, and that I may never spend time with some of them again.

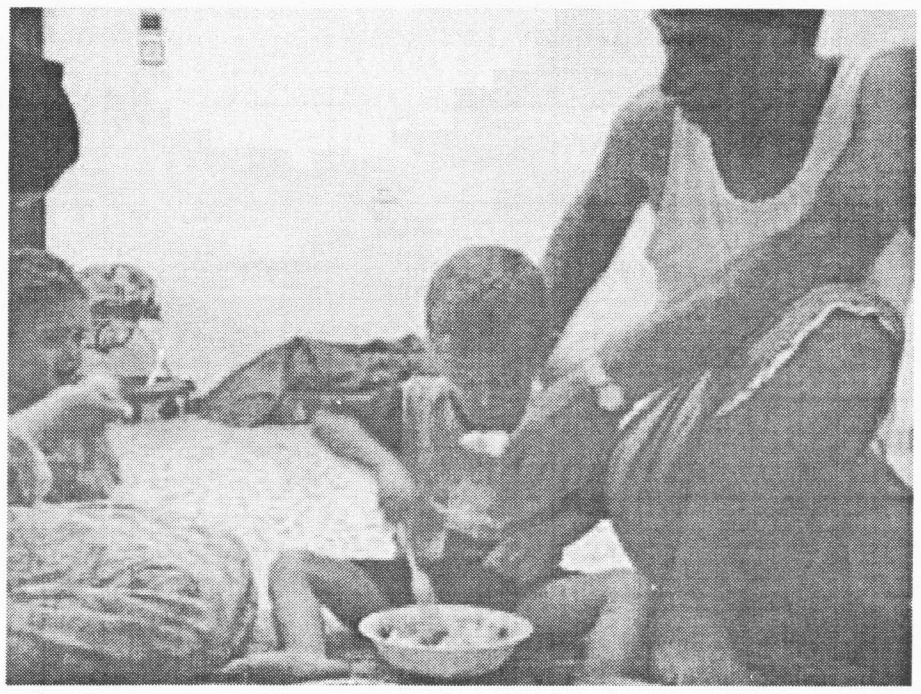
As the news of the demolition of Noura's house sunk in I remembered the sound of her two-year-old daughter Nancy laughing as she clung to her mother. I remembered countless meals eaten with the family, including a birthday dinner for the birthday that Noura and I shared. On September 1st, 2003 Noura turned 23 and I turned 20. We bought a cake, and I remember the tears of joy in Noura's eyes when she walked into the living room and saw the illuminated cake, and I remember the look we shared before blowing out the candles.

What will Noura and her family do now? Even though thousands of people have had their homes demolished in Rafah, there is no homeless situation like in the United States. Noura's family will most likely be taken in by a friend or relative; but what will my friends do as thousands of more homes are destroyed, and replaced with a wall, trapping the people of Rafah in. I am scared for my friends in Rafah. I am scared that while the governments of the world discuss roadmaps, peace plans, war plans, and invasions in abstract, the people of the world suffer. I am scared that the gentle friends I met in Rafah will be killed by the Israeli army, and that I may never spend time with some of them again.

Although Noura and Abu Jameel's house has been destroyed, I can remember the love that their family shared with me, the kitchen and back of the house filled with bullet holes. And I remember the sign that we made and hung where the army would see it; a sign that still hung on the house when the army blew it up with dynamite. In English and Hebrew it said, "Women, children, and Internationals live in this house. We are unarmed."

On Sunday, February 22nd members of the Olympia community who have traveled to Israel and Palestine will be teaching a workshop as part of the Olympia Freeskool's Activist Toolkit. They will be sharing their experiences and resources for ways to get involved. The workshop will be from 11am-2pm at Traditions Fair Trade downtown at Fifth and Water St.

You can learn more about the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project by visiting their website at www.orscp.org



[Noura, Nancy, Jameel, and Abu Jameel eating cake in the living room]

Olympia and World Wide Protest Against War and For Justice on March 20th

Larry Mosqueda

March 20th, 2004 is the first anniversary of the U.S. war against the people of Iraq and will be marked by protest around the world. The action has the backing of the national United For Peace, International ANSWER, the World Social Forum (WSF), and the European Social Forum. Veterans for Peace as well as Military Families Speak Out are also supportive. This will not be just an anniversary "remembrance," but a continuation and strengthening of the Global Peace and Justice movement that demonstrated its strength last February 15th , when over 10 million people marched around the world against the upcoming U.S.-Bush aggression against Iraq. While this did not stop the war, the U.S. and Bush took very close notice. The *New York Times* reported that there were now "two superpowers," the U.S. government and world opinion.

Last February 15th over 1000 people in Olympia protested the upcoming war. The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) and others will sponsor another rally and demonstration this March 20th in Olympia. Organizers and participants in this peaceful rally will include the young and old, religious and non-faith based, and reflect the diversity of the Olympia area. Tentative plans are to rally at the Capital grounds at noon, march, and have a peaceful rally (around 2PM) at Heritage Park in downtown, where we will have music, food, and some child-friendly activities. At present, the list of U.S. cities participating are New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Chicago, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Washington DC, Boston, and now Olympia.

Emerging themes of the mobilizations include "The World STILL Says No to War," with an end to the war by bringing the troops home NOW, an end to the occupation of Iraq and Palestinian territories, stopping the attacks on civil liberties, stopping racist attacks, and on the positive side "Money for jobs, education, healthcare and housing-Not War."

Some may question the efficacy of another march, but it is important to remember that the anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as the Central American solidarity movements of the 1980s help to defeat and slow down U.S. policy objectives in those eras. One clear example is in 1969, when Richard Nixon used the "madman theory" to threaten to use, and to ACTUALLY USE nuclear weapons against the Vietnamese (hence the "madman") unless they succumbed to his demands. He did NOT use nuclear weapons specifically because of the massive anti-Vietnam war moratoriums that occurred in Washington, DC and elsewhere that year. At the time we did not know that we were having such a direct impact, but this has been documented in several places, including Nixon's own memoirs. (Also see Seymour Hersch's book, *Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House.*)

Nixon, like Bush, lied about the reasons for the war, the conduct of the war, and his reactions to the peace movements. You can be assured that even though Bush says that he is ignoring the anti-war movement, he and especially his intelligent neocon advisors are paying close attention to global and national actions of the people in response to his wars. The Bush administration paid attention last February and they will hear our voices again this March. The current anti-war movement is far ahead of where it was 2 years into the Vietnam War.

"Radical change cannot be negotiated by governments, it can only be enforced by people." -Arundhati Roy

Just as important as getting the ears of the Bush administration, will be the strengthening of the global, national, and local communities as we converge to not only protest against the war and the logic of oppression, but also as we network and learn from each other to build a more just world. The coalition building before, during, and after the mobilization will help to make the slogan of the WSF, "Another World is Possible" a real possibility.

February 15, 2003, Olympia WA. Photo by Kayden

We cannot depend on the government to make things right. As the Indian writer Arundhati Roy noted at the recent WSF, "Radical change cannot be negotiated by governments, it can only be enforced by people." She goes on to say that it is not enough to support resistance in different parts of the world but "We have to *become* the global resistance to occupation." (See Arundhati Roy, "The New American Century," 1/22/04, www.commondreams.org .)

The need for resistance is great and the stakes are high. As Tariq Ali has noted, "The dominant position of the United States has no precedent in history…There are 189 member states of the United Nations, there is a (U.S.) military presence in 121 countries." Ali notes that this is "ultra-imperialism" that is not beneficial to the average American because the U.S. is not as economically dominant as it is militarily, and we are subject to severe economic damage unless dominance is enforced in the future by the military, but that effort can have catastrophic consequences for the U.S. and the rest of the world.

There are apologists for the Bush administration who are unabashed in their open support for empire, colonization, and what they call in their obscene Orwellian language, "defensive imperialism." Some of these apologists are writers Charles Krauthammer, Robert Kaplan, Charles Fairbanks, among others. A goal for us is not to necessarily debate and try to convince these individuals of their errors, but to illustrate for the general population the direction that this type of planning is taking us and the rest of the world. As Arundhati Roy has noted, "Debating imperialism is a bit like debating the pros and cons of rape. What can we say? That we really miss it?"

Perhaps the most frightening views of the apologists are articulated in the recent book by Bush insiders Richard Perle and David Frum. *An End to Evil: How to Win the War on Terror*. The book is a virtual blueprint and justification for world domination. As the authors state, "There is no middle way for Americans. It is victory or holocaust. This book is a manual for victory." The authors are oblivious to the concept that their version of "American victory" (i.e. American elites victory) may, in fact bring about a holocaust.

Many participants in the March 20 mobilization will not just be protesting current and recent war policies but just as importantly imperial policies for the future. We should plan not only how to save the 19 year olds in Iraq (both Americans and Iraqis) but also today's 9 year olds who will be asked to fight imperial wars in the next decade against Pakistan, Saudi Arabia (current allies) and elsewhere if we have not stopped Bush and his neoconservatives in the next few years. (We should remember that the roots of Iraq's Saddam Hussein rule started in the late 1970s and early 1980s.)

Please come to the March 20th rally, keep informed of the planning and actions, bring your friends, family, and neighbors. Treat these actions as if they were important for your future, because they are.

For more information call 867-6513. For local website with many links see, www.omjp.org, www.olyfor.org, www.united4peacetc.org, www.mediaisland.org.

This column is sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. OMJP is committed to building a society that meets the needs of all people, not one based on profit and economic values. We actively support movements that challenge corporate-sponsored globalization, and those that further racial, gender and economic equality. Our efforts are focused on working in solidarity and in coalition with individuals and groups on a local, regional, national, and global level. Our meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Olympia Community Center, located at 222 Columbia Way.° We welcome new people to our meetings. Views expressed in these columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of the entire group.

VIC'S PIZZERIA

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Ana makes a lovely vegan sauce!

Thurston Jail Alternatives: Together, We Can Do Better!

Chris Stegman

Should Thurston County taxpayers spend more than $100 million to build Phase One of a proposed 1,250-bed jail? Or are there better ways to address overcrowding, and related health and safety issues at the current jail?

When the interim plan for overcrowding failed because of poor planning and lack of public input five years ago, the county developed this new version with little public input in the official planning process. When the new property tax proposal goes on the ballot on **May 18, 2004**, voters will have only one choice: Phase One for a 650 bed jail, part of an estimated $160 million master plan.

Certainly our county jail is overcrowded. **We do need to reduce overcrowding; the question is how to do it.** Should we keep building bigger and bigger jails, or **should we pursue more cost-effective solutions that will reduce jail crowding?**

Skyrocketing Costs of Our Criminal Justice System

The county produced a report to justify the need for a new expandable jail. The results report says that during the past decade Thurston County's population increased 28% but our jail population increased 109% - ***almost four times as fast***. Related costs have risen accordingly. The criminal justice system currently eats up **76%** of the county general fund. If this growth trend continues **our county will be spending upwards to 100% of its general fund budget on** criminal justice before the mega-jail plan is completed in 2025. Is that what county taxpayers want?

Thurston County residents currently pay more than $200 per person every year for county-level law enforcement: If the bond is approved, the property tax on a $170,000 home will increase by $87 annually for the next twenty years—a 44% increase. This bond money would be only enough to cover the construction of Phase One. ***Annual operating and maintenance will cost taxpayers even more, and future 'add-on' jail bond issues are in store.***

The increased operating and maintenance costs of operating an ever expanding jail and court system will likely leave less and less money for programs that serve to reduce the jail population — the so-called 'options' or 'alternatives to incarceration' programs which the county has only begun to put in place.

Drug Court: A Successful Alternative

The county estimates that 75-85% of inmates have chemical dependency issues. Most are untreated repeat offenders which clog the jail year round.

The Thurston County Drug Court was established in 1998 to provide treatment options to non-violent offenders in the hopes of reducing recidivism and, thereby, relieving the overcrowding that peaked that year. Over the last 5 years, over 500 offenders have opted for drug court diversion to treatment programs. Recidivism amongst felons who completed treatment went from 70% to 9% !

And guess what? The county's figures for the jail's average daily population (ADP) in 2003 are at their lowest levels since 1998 !

For a Mental Health Court and treatment alternatives!

Nationwide, since the mid-'70s funding for mental health services has been slashed. Providence St. Peter Hospital just closed down the only remaining psych unit in our area.. The result: Many people who need mental health services end up in jail. Taxpayers may think they save money by not funding mental health services, but they end up paying much more for police, courts, jails, and the social and economic disruption of families and communities.

A recent *Olympian* article reported county officials as saying that between 15 and 20% of Thurston County Jail's inmate population suffers from a major mental illness, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Mentally ill offenders are locked up in the county jail an average of 64 days, compared with an average of 25 days for other inmates. Why so long? Because there is a shortage of beds in the mental health system. This contributes significantly to jail overcrowding and to safety and health issues for staff and inmates.

Olympia Municipal Court judge Lee Creighton favors starting a Mental Health Court, which would mirror Thurston County's highly successful Drug Court, by diverting appropriate mentally ill offenders to treatment programs. King County and Clark County officials have implemented such programs successfully, reducing recidivism **amongst mentally ill offenders. It's time for Thurston County officials to do the same.**

Other Cost Effective Solutions Needed City and county officials backing the mega-jail proposal, under public pressure, appointed a select group of 13 citizens to evaluate the proposal. Their report recommendations include:

"The problem of how to fund criminal justice programs and especially alternative options to incarceration, needs to be addressed now, rather than put off until after a new facility is planned or constructed."

"Invest more money in pre-trial services, probation, parole, mental health, drug treatment and drug court. Investments in alternatives to incarceration are far more effective than jailing people at the current rate."

And ...

"The County has chosen particular population management strategies; The County and cities need and can adopt different—and certainly more cost effective—strategies."

Another critical need is for jobs programs and transitional housing for homeless offenders. The Pacific Mountain WorkForce Offender program provides comprehensive job search assistance to persons coming out of the county jail—86% of this programs clients are homeless when released—but this vital program is critically underfunded. This program needs the county's financial support NOW.

FACTS: The operational capacity for the county jail is 408. Last year the average daily population (ADP) in the county jail was 354, the lowest annual ADP in five years, thanks to the use of other 'options' programs such as Day Jail, Day Reporting, Electronic Home Monitoring, Community Betterment Work Program and others. These programs work to reduce overcrowding, and save the county's taxpayers money !

Thurston Jail Alternatives needs your volunteer help and financial support.

Get more information at www.jailalternatives.org
To get on our contact list, email us at info@jailalternatives.org
To volunteer call Chris at 705-3528 or Glen at 491-9093

(They Have Imprisoned The Gazebo In Sylvester Park, continued)

type people, I just get pissed off and start yelling, and that never gets anything done. Maybe someone else could express it to them, write an appeal, clemency for the Gazebo.

So I'm turning to the people I know best, yeah my community, all you know who I'm talking about. Every time there's a gathering of any sort, we all stand around and wave at each other, go say hi, and all that, some of us are the same faces at every event, and when we're not there we wonder where the others are. I'm asking you to help me, at least help to mourn the loss of something so great, yes that little damn Gazebo meant that much to me! The words ring in the back of my mind "don't mourn, organize!" — who was it that said that? We need to get together and hold a candle light vigil for the death of it. Cause it's gone as far as I'm concerned, to me they might as well tear the damn thing down; if their precious Gazebo is not for my people, then I would just as soon see it torn down as to see it standing there behind bars. I just want to stand up and scream at them, "YOU RIPPED ME OFF!" You stole it from me; you have desecrated something sacred, something that most of you with decision-making power never even use. I'll bet you haven't been down there and used the damn thing but once or twice a year. I've been going there and visiting with my friends and getting together for one reason or another 20 to 30 times a year at the very least for the last 12 Ω years.

If their precious Gazebo is not for my people, then I would just as soon see it torn down as to see it standing there behind bars.

Yes I know about the garbage left behind, and yes I know people drank beer and have smoked god knows what, but that does not give you the right to punish everybody. Not once have you ever shown up and helped clean up, and yes I have. I've rolled up in the late evening and grabbed the garbage can, pulled it around the whole park picking garbage and cursing at the people. I remember little Sammy coming up to me one day and saying, "I cleaned up the park today". I said that was kewl Sammy and she said I made the other guys help. It would not be that hard to take a little better care of the park and the people that use it. You see we need to identify positive behaviors and reinforce them; I mean we as just ordinary people.

So far we haven't added a single youth outreach worker in this town or a homeless outreach worker to go by once in while and work with the kids or the homeless or the other people that they all think are undesirable to use the Gazebo. Just once could we come up with something better than locking it behind bars? Now the place is worthless to any of my friends. Never again will it be the same. Now if I was a musician in this town I would refuse to ever play in that prison, ever! If I was organizing an event I would refuse to use it. I'll help you build a temporary stage right next to it, but I wouldn't set foot in the thing. In fact I'll go you one further. The next time I set foot in the Gazebo is Mayday! I think maybe I'll just invite a few of my friends, yeah! I think I know a few people around this community. I'll see you then, kids.

It's these little fences that keep creeping up on us almost unnoticed; they slowly pop up everywhere and the next thing ya know we are on lock-down. One by one it's another prison another gated community and another piece of freedom shut up and ya don't even really notice till one day you walk out and it's you, or your brother/sister on the other side of the fence, and slowly they gentrify and safely split up our community and "out" the underprivileged class in the rain. Just one small roof standing in the middle of the park; the only public covered space for blocks that doesn't belong to some store front. And the business owners are going why's this guy standing in front of my shop?

Uncontrolled public gathering spaces are the new fear in society. Ninety percent of this fear goes on in people's heads, the crime rate and the unacceptable behavior is 10% true. If some ones doing illegal things in the park show me the arrest warrants to prove that place is any different than one of the major corners down town, not to mention any of the lovely bars in our fine and slowly-being-gentrified city.

I really don't want to hear the story of how this guy peed in your doorway; there's no place to pee, to boot. Oh now let's not bring that up, don't tell me how someone left the gazebo in a mess so you ripped off another piece of my freedom and slammed it behind bars. Please don't patronize me with your condemnation of some youth's or cheeky bum's inappropriate use of the tinny roof that the gazebo affords; don't tell me that was reason enough to strip my life and other peoples lives of the grand and wondrous free use of the place. The place now stands mortuary-like empty, and dead is freedom of speech locked from life's pesky people like me.

"Long Hair" David has been organizing in this community for twelve years on various grassroots projects. He was the co-founder of Olympia Aids Prevention Projects, Olympia chapter of Books to Prisoners and is the co-founder and coordinator of the Emma Goldman Youth & Homeless Outreach Project. Downtown Olympia is his backyard.

Male Attitudes Key in Prevention of Violence Against Women

Todd Denny

This article is written for educators and teachers who are willing to examine the roots of male violence in the United States and the components of successful prevention efforts. These are desperate times. When people are desperate they are willing to try things that are uncommon – things that stretch their comfort zone. Desperate times can open doors to innovative practice. I welcome this opportunity to try a new way.

Men, as well as women, are often confused about cultural violence because of misinformation and unchallenged assumptions that have been perpetuated for generations. If you are willing to accept the idea of male responsibility for the vast majority of violence in our culture and world, or are at least open to that idea, then continue reading.

I have spent the past two decades toiling in the men's violence prevention movement, a small yet powerful entity. I've had some of the best teachers and mentors in the world. I think I know a thing or two about the subject. Men are easily confused about violence prevention because many of us find it is very difficult to acknowledge and accept our responsibility as men. Accepting responsibility can be a terrifying proposition for many of us to embrace. It is also difficult to accept the findings that most violence begins in homes and is extended into our schools and communities.

The idea of responsibility seems to push a button of defensiveness in many men. One finds similar defensiveness in teenagers and adults alike. I remember proposing a MVP [Male Violence Prevention] pilot program to a U.S. Department of Education administrator and group of female colleagues.

When I introduced the subject of acknowledging our responsibility and need for examining current ideas of masculinity to craft prevention efforts he bristled, "What about all the women in prison for violence?" I could have pointed out the imbalance of prison population by gender.

I could have commented on the larger ratio of violent crimes among men. I chose not to because I had lost him and any opportunity to collaborate. Equally disturbing was that the administrator's defensive and misinformed position was readily accepted, or at least went unchallenged, by the women in the group.

Why men get so defensive about the facts of male violence is a question that we must examine and understand if we are to be successful in MVP efforts. Men's lack of ability to simply be honest with themselves about the central issues in male violence in the United States is a large part of the challenge in our efforts to curb male violence. Until we help young men to accept their responsibility for violence in their daily lives, we will continue to focus on secondary and tertiary approaches to the desperate issues that confront us.

Efforts to strengthen women, to enable women to defend themselves, and to recognize the danger signals inherent in certain social situations are important and must be taught. But these efforts are weak and far less effective than changing men's attitudes toward violence against women. Sometimes the best bandage job possible just won't do when what we need is a tourniquet.

Contact Todd at: tdenny@olywa.net

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Variations On Antisemitism

Phan Nguyen

On Dec. 16, I was invited on to Free Radio Olympia (91.3 FM) to discuss issues relating to Palestine solidarity work. Subsequently, *Works in Progress* offered to print the transcript of the interview. However, I preferred to take the opportunity to expound on the topics I had discussed on the radio, rather than reprint the interview. In this first part, I will detail the limited scope in which the mainstream media sensationalizes antisemitism and the attitudes expressed by those who criticize "the left" of being antisemitic.

The Palestinian solidarity movement is a broad and decentralized international movement. However, this has not deterred critics from condemning the movement as collectively antisemitic. The general baselessness of the accusations has prompted activists to proclaim that the charge serves only to silence critics of Israel. My personal take is that the charges of antisemitism are often sincere but misinformed. Moreover the misinformation often stems from the accusers' own stereotypes, racism against Arabs, and chauvinistic inclinations.

The EU report on antisemitism

Last November supposed scandal erupted when a European Union board on racism shelved a report that it had commissioned on the state of antisemitism in Europe. According to one of the report's authors and frequently repeated by the mainstream press, the report was shelved because "they are fearing that the report will discriminate against Muslim minorities." That is, the European Union commission supposedly deemed the report "politically incorrect" because it laid most of the blame of antisemitism on "Muslims and pro-Palestinian groups" and therefore had to suppress it.

However once the report was made public, it simply confirmed what the EU board members had stated—that the report was poorly written. The report, which was prepared by the Berlin-based Centre for Research on Antisemitism, made sweeping generalizations and employed a broad definition of antisemitism, equating anti-Zionism and much criticism of Israeli actions with antisemitism, as well as placing blame on so-called "anti-Americanism" and "anti-globalisation."

Although the report detailed several incidents of true antisemitism, these incidents were interspersed with acts whose antisemitic content is debatable at the least. Some examples of supposed antisemitism included: accusing Israeli soldiers of war crimes; blaming Israel for its role in the Palestinian refugee problem; comparing Ariel Sharon to Hitler; referring to Israeli military violence as state terrorism; criticizing US aid to Israel; boycott and divestment campaigns; "anti-Israel" bias in the media.

The sources for their information on antisemitism were just as questionable, employing the authority of the *New York Post* and renowned Islamophobe Daniel Pipes.

The report also takes a clear stance against Palestinians, referring to the "*so-called* al-Aqsa Intifada" or simply "'al-Aqsa Intifada'" in quotes. If the authors were uncomfortable with that term they could have used an alternate one, such as referring to the "second intifada." However the authors felt compelled to refer to the intifada in mocking tones. They criticize the media's depiction of "Palestinians as a people *allegedly* oppressed by a *so-called imperialist* Israeli state." (My italics.) They also fault the media for not providing the proper "contexts and the formative background history of the current conflict,"—presumably contexts that would somehow justify Israeli actions of collective punishment and present Israel's military occupation in a positive light.

However, the most ridiculous assertion of the EU report is of an axis of antisemitism in which criticism of Israeli occupation (supposedly "antisemitism") is linked to criticism of US foreign policy (which the report calls "anti-Americanism") and criticism of corporate globalization (simplified as "anti-globalisation"). For example a flyer used to advertise a Berlin demonstration against George Bush's visit employs a cartoon caricature of Uncle Sam. The EU report obsesses over Uncle Sam's cartoonish flaring nostrils, claiming that it depicts Uncle Sam as a Jew. Thus a protest against George Bush is transformed into an attack against Jews. An examination of the actual flyer however demonstrates that such a conclusion is a stretch.

Which left is that?

The report's condemnation of the "anti-American far left" as antisemitic is part of a trend among the mainstream to delegitimize solidarity movements as mere hate-fests.

In response to feelings of discomfort or marginalization, some Jews have sought to silence the sources. Rather than empowering themselves, they seek to disempower and mute the others.

Foreign Policy magazine recently lamented "antiglobalism's Jewish problem." According to senior editor Mark Strauss, the 2003 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre was "just one snapshot of an unfolding phenomenon known as the 'new antisemitism.'" From Strauss we learn that anti-corporate globalization activists such as Maude Barlow "help enable antisemitism" when they write that "'corporate rule' poses a fundamental threat to the rights and democratic freedoms of all people." Strauss sees such "conspiracy theories" as the tie that binds the "Brownshirt and Birkenstock crowds." Thus we learn that Arundhati Roy is no different from David Duke.

If we are to accept that anti-Jewish oppression is rampant, then we should believe that traces of it can be found in any political movement, and endorsed by individuals, not necessarily by the movement itself. The irony is that a focus on "the left" as a primary purveyor of antisemitism only undermines the majority in progressive movements that are working to ensure a hate-free environment. It is unfortunate that the most extreme and most ridiculous actions by reactionary individuals are emphasized while the rest of the movement is marginalized. It only serves to weaken the majority and empower the racists.

The problem is not only identifying criticism of Israel with antisemitism, but also defining antisemitism strictly in those terms, while pardoning racists and neo-fascists for their uncritical support Israel.

Pardoning racism and fascism

The problem is not only identifying criticism of Israel with antisemitism, but also defining antisemitism strictly in those terms, while pardoning racists and neo-fascists for their uncritical support Israel.

Recently the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) gave its Distinguished Statesman Award to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a fascist apologist who referred to Benito Mussolini's rule as a "benign dictatorship" in which its citizens were not "murdered" but rather sent "on holiday to internal exile." Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Berlusconi asserted the superiority of western civilization in contrast to the backward Islamic countries. When the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance criticized the Italian Northern League party for "particularly intense use of racist and xenophobic propaganda" in its anti-immigrant platform, Berlusconi came to the League's defense. The ADL saw fit to ignore these inconveniences and awarded Berlusconi not for any efforts to combat hatred, but for his continued support of the Israeli occupation.

Meanwhile Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini was courted by Israeli officials in a visit to strengthen ties between the two countries. Fini is a member of the "post-fascist" National Alliance party. Fini's past praise of the virtues of fascism and his remark that Mussolini was "the greatest statesman of the twentieth century" was insignificant to the Sharon government. As one Israeli representative remarked, "the important thing is that he supports Israel."

Jerry Falwell's support for Israel is reason enough to forgive his belief that the Antichrist is a male Jew, which Falwell has frequently asserted. Falwell belongs in the company of the Christian right, such as Pat Robertson, Ralph Reed, and Gary Bauer, whose support for Israel stems from the belief that shipping all the Jews to Israel will commence the Second Coming of Christ. The fact that they see Jews only as tools to fulfill Biblical prophecy does not deter the Israeli government and major US Jewish organizations such as the Zionist Organization of America and the ADL from courting them.

Such double-standards on antisemitism also apply to domestic issues, as with the recent California gubernatorial race. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who once idolized Hitler, did not have to answer for his tarnished past, simply denying that it ever happened. His financial contributions to the Simon Wiesenthal Center absolved him his past sins and garnered support for him from the center's founder, Rabbi Marvin Hier. Meanwhile his Democratic opponent, Cruz Bustamante, was smeared through his past association with MEChA, a Latino empowerment group that was falsely accused of antisemitism by the likes of Fox News and the *Wall Street Journal*.

And of course accusations of antisemitism are leveled against Jews who oppose actions of the state of Israel. The *New York Post* saw fit to label Adam Shapiro, a cofounder of the International Solidarity Movement, as a "Jewish Taliban" and as a race traitor. The *New York Times* fares no better. In a recent interview with Noam Chomsky, the *Times* interviewer informed Chomsky that he "sound[ed] like a self-hating Jew."

Indeed many Jews who show solidarity with the Palestinians are attacked with racist labels such as "kike" or "kapo," and frequently told that "Hitler killed the wrong Jews." Settler Council leader Adi Mintz recently called US Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer a "Jew boy" (*yehudon*) and dismissed him as a mere "diaspora Jew."

Although I do believe that many charges of antisemitism are sincere, there are instances in which the charges are indeed leveled simply to discredit activists. One recent and audacious example involved a member of Harvard Students for Israel, Eric Trager, who posted antisemitic messages under a pseudonym, in a failed attempt to discredit a Harvard campus peace group.

The threat of antisemitism carries over to ridiculous comparisons to the Holocaust and Nazi Germany for political means. Militant settlers and their supporters have stated in *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other mainstream outlets that evacuating the illegal Jewish-only settlements is akin to making the Occupied Territories *Judenrein*, employing a Nazi term to evoke genocide. Indeed calls for a one-state solution — that is a truly democratic state with equal rights for all its citizens — is supposed to mean "genocide" for the Jews. According to the *New York Times*, "this is code for the end of Israel and must be strenuously opposed."

A personal perspective

My purpose of showing the frivolous accusations of antisemitism is not to delegitimize true antisemitism, but rather to show how narrowly defined it has become within the mainstream. Antisemitism existed prior to the creation of Israel, and yet antisemitism is now an act that is performed in the context of Israel.

My own views of racism are based on my role as a person of color, as a first-generation Vietnamese, born in Saigon but raised in the United States. What I find disturbing about many charges of antisemitism within the US is that they are leveled within the structure of privilege. It is a different perspective than people who have lived their entire lives under the blatant racism that comes from being obviously different from the standard white mold. Under this structure of privilege, acts that bring discomfort are labeled antisemitic and immediately silenced.

Contrast this with people of color who are constantly reminded that they exist as "others" and who must define their own modes of empowerment to overcome the oppression of the WASP-dominated society. This does not devalue the Jewish experience of oppression but does demonstrate the difference between how some in the Jewish community have responded in such reactionary and polarizing means, as opposed to how people of color generally react to racism.

In response to feelings of discomfort or marginalization, some Jews have sought to silence the sources. Rather than empowering themselves, they seek to disempower and mute the others. This is coupled with a disregard for other oppressed peoples, such as Arab Americans, who may have a different take on the issue. Other oppressed groups are not factored in.

Anti-Arab racism in support of antisemitism

A significant example locally is the alarm expressed at the last Evergreen graduation ceremony. Many graduating students wore the traditional Middle Eastern checkered scarf (*kaffiyeh*) in remembrance of the death of their classmate, Rachel Corrie, and in recognition of the plight of the Palestinians, for which we all are complicit.

To equate the kaffiyeh with terrorism or antisemitism is to perpetuate racist stereotypes that Arabs are all Jew-hating terrorists.

Some people in the Olympia community claimed that such an act of solidarity was at best disrespectful towards Jews and at worst antisemitic. However such claims reveal the anti-Arab racist tendencies of the accusers. The checkered kaffiyeh is a traditional symbol of Arab pride and is especially poignant in the current climate in which attacks against people of Arab descent make it difficult to express pride in their identity. Arab-Americans are genuinely being discriminated against.

To equate the kaffiyeh with terrorism or antisemitism is to perpetuate racist stereotypes that Arabs are all Jew-hating terrorists. One friend who wore the kaffiyeh was scolded for wearing a "terrorist" scarf. Not only does this marginalize Arab-Americans and reduce a diverse people to a single monolithic entity, to claim that Arab pride equals antisemitism creates the chauvinistic impression that Arabs can only exist within the context of Jews — that an entire people are defined merely by their supposed hatred of another people.

Symbols of Palestinian pride are especially liberating, since these symbols have historically been suppressed under Israeli rule. Prior to the Oslo accords, the Israeli occupiers had banned the Palestinian flag, the Palestinian national anthem, and even the Palestinian colors. Palestinians who dared to take pride in their identity through such symbols would be beaten and jailed.

I understand that some Jews feel uncomfortable seeing the kaffiyeh, but frankly they need to get over it. No ethnic group should be marginalized to placate another ethnic group, and expectations otherwise are simply chauvinistic. This is a stance that should not be compromised. The fear of kaffiyehs is based on a racist stereotype, and to censor the kaffiyeh on this basis or to accommodate one's misinformed fear is to perpetuate the stereotype.

Antisemitism in "the left"

So does antisemitism truly exist in the so-called "left"? Undoubtedly, just as there is racism, sexism and homophobia in the left. The left can never claim to be truly immune from oppression and marginalization, even when it believes that it is working to end them. When it comes to Israel, antisemitic sentiments do often surface and are not only expressed as strange conspiracy theories (such as the Jews who were supposedly told to stay at home during the 9-11 attacks) but also with sentiments that are more properly termed anti-Jewish oppression. Again, this takes the form of a privileged people dismissing the concerns of others—in denying that antisemitism exists or in marginalizing one's Jewish identity.

The flip side is overaccomodation of Jewish needs, which is just as patronizing and is a superficial approach to dealing with the issue. An exaggeration of this is when Palestine solidarity groups glorify progressive Jews, whose identity and whose opposition to the Occupation is somehow seen as more credible than an Arab-American's opposition.

Rather than avoiding the issue or overreacting to it, we need to be able to discuss the topic openly, despite how uncomfortable it may be for all parties involved. One's own antisemitic thoughts need to be aired before they can be confronted, and fears of antisemitism need to be openly expressed in order to be dealt with.

Too often antisemitism is treated as an exclusive problem, one in which racism, sexism, and homophobia occupy no similar space and hold no similar value.

We need to understand that antisemitism does not exist in a vacuum. Yes, it can be inspired by reprehensible acts of the Israeli government, though not justified through those acts. But just as well, antisemitism is symptomatic of the same institutionalized structures that produce other forms of hatred. To deny that—to accord antisemitism its own special place—will ensure that its roots lie untouched.

In the next issue of Works in Progress, *I will detail the work of the International Solidarity Movement, Palestinian nonviolence resistance, as well as the reasons for US support for Israel.*

David Rovics returns to Olympia

Former Evergreen student hailed by Utah Phillips as *"...a fine songwriter and a good activist."*

Jim Dees

David Rovics will be at the Capital Theater on February 19 to play a fundraiser for the Green Party of South Puget Sound. It was while studying political economy with Pete Bohmer at Evergreen that David committed himself to making a difference with his music. The years since have been very prolific – *"...he writes more than anybody I know."* says Charlie King, an amazing activist in his own right. *"I don't know how he does it all because he is on the front lines at every street action you can think of from Gaza to Seattle, Quebec to Rio. No one does it better."*

Charlie isn't the only one wowed by David Rovics. David's list of endorsements reads like a who's who of global activism. Amy Goodman calls him *"the musical version of* Democracy Now!*"* Pete Seeger says, *"Listen to David Rovics..."* Howard Zinn gushes, *"It has been a pleasure to share a stage with David Rovics, whose words and music speak powerfully and lyrically to the world around us. An artist with a social conscience is to be cherished."* And Medea Benjamin says, *"If the key to building a mass movement is to make it 'irresistible,' David is opening the flood gates."*

David doesn't pull any punches with his music, and his songs cover the spectrum from peace and justice issues to the environment, corporate abuses, and the importance of independent media. His lyrics are more than anger, they are rallying cries; they bring hope even as they bring home how bad things have gotten, and they educate even as they disabuse you of much you thought you knew. One minute he's lamenting *"Who will tell the people?"* (about stories unreported by corporate media); the next he's positively celebrating with *"After the Revolution"*.

David is a fine guitar player with a wonderful voice, but the power of his message stems from his ability to put a

human face on current events. In *"The Dying Firefighter"*, the song's hero reminds us *"the firefighters of Kabul are just as brave men as me."* When David sings about a young girl playing, we are charmed; it's only gradually that the song turns dark with dropping bombs and a missing brother. He finishes this piece with *"It's not so far to Baghdad And I could be her father 'Cause when I looked into her eyes, I saw my daughter"*.

Olympians and Evergreen students will no doubt take special interest in David's song for Rachel Corrie. His approach to the tragedy is a little bit different, as he tries to imagine what must have gone through the dozer-operator's mind, and whether his life has changed since the events of that day. David didn't know Rachel personally, figuring she must have been 15 or so when he lived in Oly. But they had many mutual friends and David, like all of us, was stunned by what happened. He plans to tour the Palestinian territories himself in December of this year.

When asked about his days in Olympia, David remembers *"the lush green forests of the Evergreen campus, sitting in my little trailer trying to get the stove to heat the sorry little place, having a tree fall on it during a windstorm, hanging out with my friends on the campus and downtown at the Dancing Goat and the Spar bar, all kinds of stuff..."*

David's last performance at Evergreen was rudely interrupted when some idiot started a war in Iraq. David was electric that night, and afterwards visited 'Camp Rachel', a tent city at the Capital Campus set up as an ongoing protest of the war.

David's performance on Thursday, February 19th will be at the Capital Theater in downtown Olympia. Doors will open at 7, with opening act "Skeptic Tank" scheduled to play at 8. Tickets will be $10 general, $5 for students/low income/OFS members. This event is a fundraiser for the Green Party of South Puget Sound.

David is well versed in Green issues, and played at the Green Party National Convention in 2000. When asked about his support for the Greens, David answers, *"We need proportional representation or instant run-off voting and a real multi-party democracy.° It would be a good step in the right direction, anyway, far better than the two-party duopoly we have today.° The Green Party is a real grassroots movement.° On the local level it's already a real viable third party, and I hope it will become thus on the state and national levels as well."*

To make this happen, David says we need *"Large numbers of committed people. Tolerance – encouragement of different interests. Democracy without chaos. Also activism should include music and food. You have to reach people's hearts and stomachs in addition to their minds. Activism has to have a social aspect – be socially fulfilling – because of the demands you are making on peoples' time. Those involved who aren't into social aspects can actually be destructive."* David has lots of ideas about building a movement and holding successful rallies, which like his songs, can be downloaded free at his website - http://davidrovics.com/. Although he likes to sell a CD when he can, he insists that the important thing is to get the message out.

You can help! Visit David's website, order a CD, or download some songs and burn your own. Share them with your friends! Bring your friends to the Capital Theater on February 19. He may be just the shot in the arm that your own movement needs. At the very least, you will share an evening of laughter, tears and cheers with your fellow activists, and leave knowing the legacy of Woody Guthrie, Phil Ochs and Pete Seeger is not at an end. David Rovics is writing the soundtrack for our times.

"songs of social significance"
DAVID ROVICS

Live at the Capital Theater

Thursday February 19

Opening Act: Skeptic Tank

~.~

***"David Rovics is the musical version of* Democracy Now!"**

Amy Goodman

~.~

Fundraiser for the Green Party of South Puget Sound. Doors at 7, music at 8. Tickets $10/$5 for students, low income, & OFS.

Olympia Copwatch Report

Drew Hendricks

The Olympia Police Department has released most of the documents requested by Olympia Copwatch last September. So far, only the 2002 records have been keyed into our database. We still need volunteers to help with the data entry for the 2003 documents.

An analysis of the documents, called Supervisors Checklists, revealed that some of the documents were not released. The checklist for January 11, 2002 was among an unknown number of documents omitted from the packet in December's release. That was the day two Olympia Police Officers shot Kent DeBoer in his parents' home in the Ken Lake subdivision, while a third officer used a TASER on him. A lawsuit pending in the case has not been cited for the withholding of this document, and the Department has not yet had a chance to explain the missing documents.

The TASER is a 'conducted energy weapon' which fires a 50,000 volt charge at very low current through two wires, into the targeted person, causing pain. The wires are carried by two darts, which are propelled by compressed nitrogen in a cartridge on the weapon. The weapon can also be thrust into a person's body like an ordinary 'stun gun,' which is called a "contact" use of the TASER. The weapon has a laser on it which allows the officer to aim it, and a memory cell which logs when the weapon is fired. A burst of serial number 'confetti' also flies out with the darts when the weapon is fired, so that evidence of the weapon's use is left at the scene. This serial number matches the cartridge loaded on the weapon.

Including the known use of a TASER in the DeBoer case, OPD documented the use of TASERs 22 times against people in 2002. Officers used the threat of TASing at least 8 times in the same year. One of the 22 times TASERs were used, a single dart missed one time. TASERs were used or threatened in 29 separate cases, by 18 separate officers, in 2002. Three officers used or drew their TASERs four times each; Jeffrey D Jordan, Paul R Bakala, and Charles S Gassett. Each is a patrol officer. Officer Richard E Allen used his TASER three times, and Randy L Wilson used his twice. All other officers who used TASERs in 2002 only used them a single time during the year.

Olympia Police used TASERs in at least 69 separate cases in 2003, and in some of those cases more than one officer used a TASER. The final number of TASER uses is unknown at this time, but it is expected to be at least 70 and possibly as high as 90. The more volunteers we can organize, the sooner we will know.

Traditions
Cafe & World Folk Art

"Care to know where your money goes?"

Support fair trade with low-income artisans and farmers and you will...

We are:

- A center for fairly-traded products from around the world
- A cafe with good food
- A performance space for concerts, classes, forums, and more

Website: traditionsfairtrade.com

300 5th Ave SW, Olympia • 705-2819

"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition February Events

OLYMPIA

WROC Night Out

Monday, February 2nd
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE
Potluck 5:30 p.m.

6 – 8 Decorate t-shirts for…

SHIRTS OFF OUR BACKS CAMPAIGN AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY

February 16th on Capital Campus in Olympia
We will display our shirts, tell our stories, make an impact!

Meet at Olympia WROC Office:
701 Franklin Street SE at 10 am.
Make appointments now to meet with your legislators.
Volunteer Meetings every Wednesday at the WROC Office
701 Franklin Street SE, Olympia WA 98501
360-352-9716 wrocoly@wroc.org

To Our Dear Friends at Traditions Cafe and World Folk Art

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the many years of generously sharing your wonderful space and energy with local community organizers.

For this, and all you do for our community, we thank you!

Love,
The WIPworkers

National Security Presentation

Tuesday, February 10, 2004, 7:00 PM

Alexis Keeler of the respected Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility presents the US policy on terrorism: our weapons — how "smart," how dangerous, how many; the Middle East's possible and probable response to our weapons systems; other options we have for making ourselves safe. Give your opinions, and help us come to a final assessment of our safety as a nation. Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia. Free; donations accepted.

Free Workshops Teach Citizens How to Make a Difference

Want to bring people together to stand up for your cause? Olympia's Community Free School will show you how.

From mid-February through the end of April, the Free School will host the "Citizen's Toolkit," a series of workshops that teach the skills people use to bring about change both locally and globally. Workshops will be held at community spaces in downtown Olympia and are free to participants.

Workshops will include: Web site development, effective communication and non-violent communication, documentary making, lobbying and much more. Citizens active in labor, environmental and social justice causes that range from reining in neighborhood development to working toward world peace will share the tools they use successfully to raise awareness and organize grassroots support.

This year's schedule of Citizen's Toolkit workshops is available online at **www.freeskoolco-op.org**. The Community Free School and Media Island are located in Olympia at 816 Adams St. SE, across from the Timberland Regional Library.

Citizen's Toolkit sponsors include Traditions Cafe and the Fair Trade Federation; the Olympia Food Co-op; and Fertile Ground.

Art Across Borders

Art Across Borders is an exchange with Iraqi and Palestinian artists whose work is being shown in a traveling exhibit touring the U. S. in 2003-2004. Olympia willo present the art show **February 6th through 29th, 2004**. Throughout the month guest speakers will explore current events and celebrate Arab culture. Gerri Haynes (Physicians for Social Responsibility), Bert Sacks, a Seattle activist, and Dick Meyer, owner of Traditions Café and World Folk Art in Olympia will give key note talks on opening night, February 6th at 7:00 pm. February 7th at 7:00 pm three women will speak about their recent trip to Iraq and Palestine as part of a Seattle based group, Another World is Possible.° February 13th at 7pm Therese Salibe, Evergreen faculty member, will speak about Arab Women and Literature. More special event° dates will be posted on our website www.aabolympia.org throughout January, and advertised in media and flyers.° Show location is **Art House Designs Gallery 420 B Franklin St. SE**, at the corner of 5th in downtown Olympia. Regular gallery hours: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Tues. - Sat., extended evening hours during special exhibit events. Free admission.

In addition to upcoming event dates, information about the show's curators, links to the artists and facts about their homelands can be found on the website. We welcome volunteer exhibit hosts and donations for a Silent Auction fundraiser. If you have questions, and to find out how you can be a part of this important, once in a lifetime event, contact **Christi McGinley at 360-459-4024**, Christi@BeauDesigns.com or **Julia Moore at 360-459-4001**, juliasews@comcast.net .

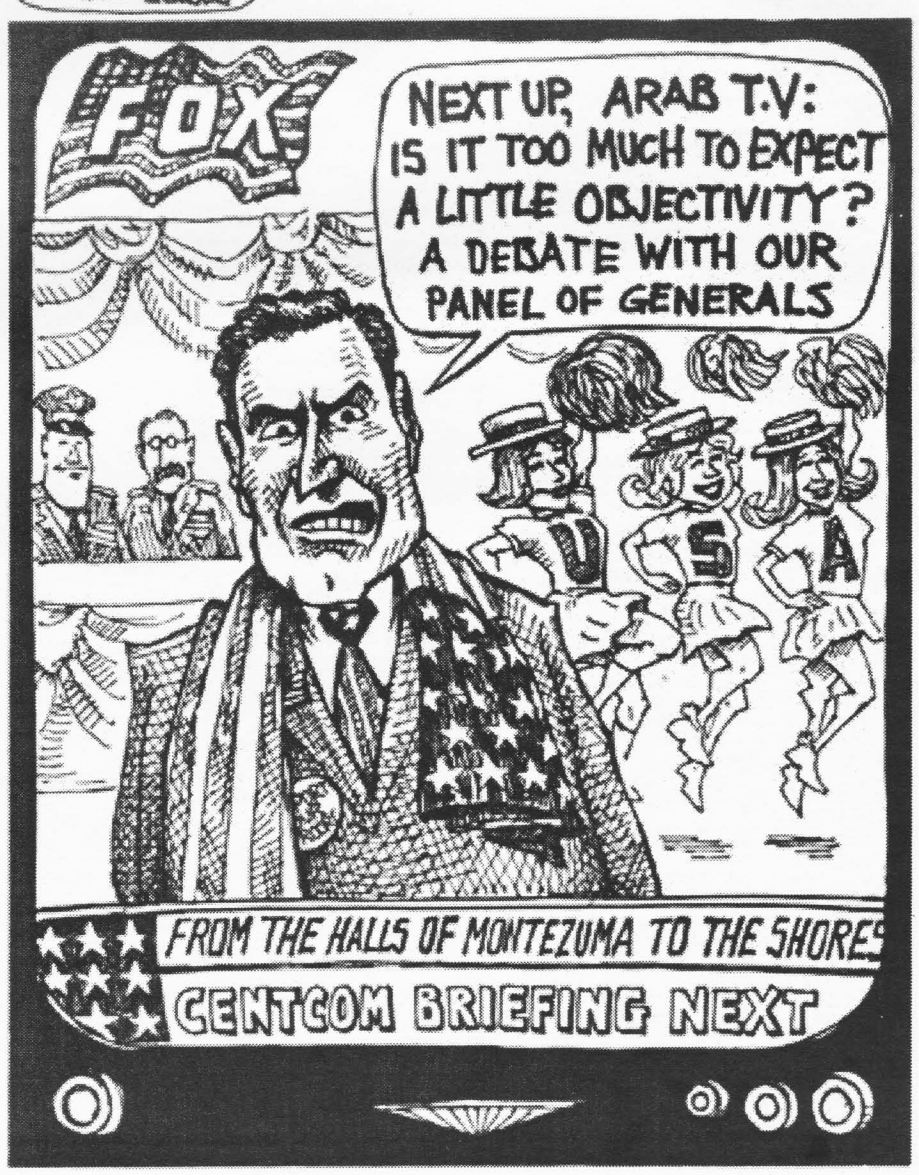
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH LEONARD PELTIER
MARCH AND RALLY FOR JUSTICE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004, TACOMA, WA

12:00 NOON: MARCH FOR JUSTICE
Portland Ave. Park (on Portland Ave. between E. 24th and E. Fairbanks Ave. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east)
1:00 PM: RALLY FOR JUSTICE
U.S. Federal Court House, 1717 Pacific Ave.
CARAVAN FOR JUSTICE:
SEATTLE: Meet at 10:45 AM at the parking lot at 22nd and Madison
OLYMPIA: Meet at 10:45 AM at Media Island, 816 Adams

As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist.
Sitting Bull

Speakers
Harold Belmont: Elder, Native People's Alliance With Friends and Allies
Dorothy Ackerman: Lakota Elder
Shelly Vendiola: Indigenous Women's Network/ Indigenous Environmental Network
Pete Sanchez: Ktunaxa (Kutenai), Drummer
Kelly White: Coastal Salish, long time B.C. Peltier activist
Kerwin Hemlock: Drummer
Jeanette Bushnell: Native People's Alliance With Friends and Allies
Michael One Road: Portland AIM
Juan Jose Bocanegra: Community organizer and long time Peltier supporter.
Matt Remle: Hunkpapa Lakota/ Native Youth Action
Steve Hapy, Jr: Tacoma LPSG
Arthur J. Miller: Tacoma LPSG
NW AIM DRUM

TACOMA LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT GROUP
P.O. BOX 5464
TACOMA, WA 98415-0454
Tacoma-lpsg@ojibwe.us


LINT TRAP
FOX
NEXT UP, ARAB T.V: IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT A LITTLE OBJECTIVITY? A DEBATE WITH OUR PANEL OF GENERALS
U
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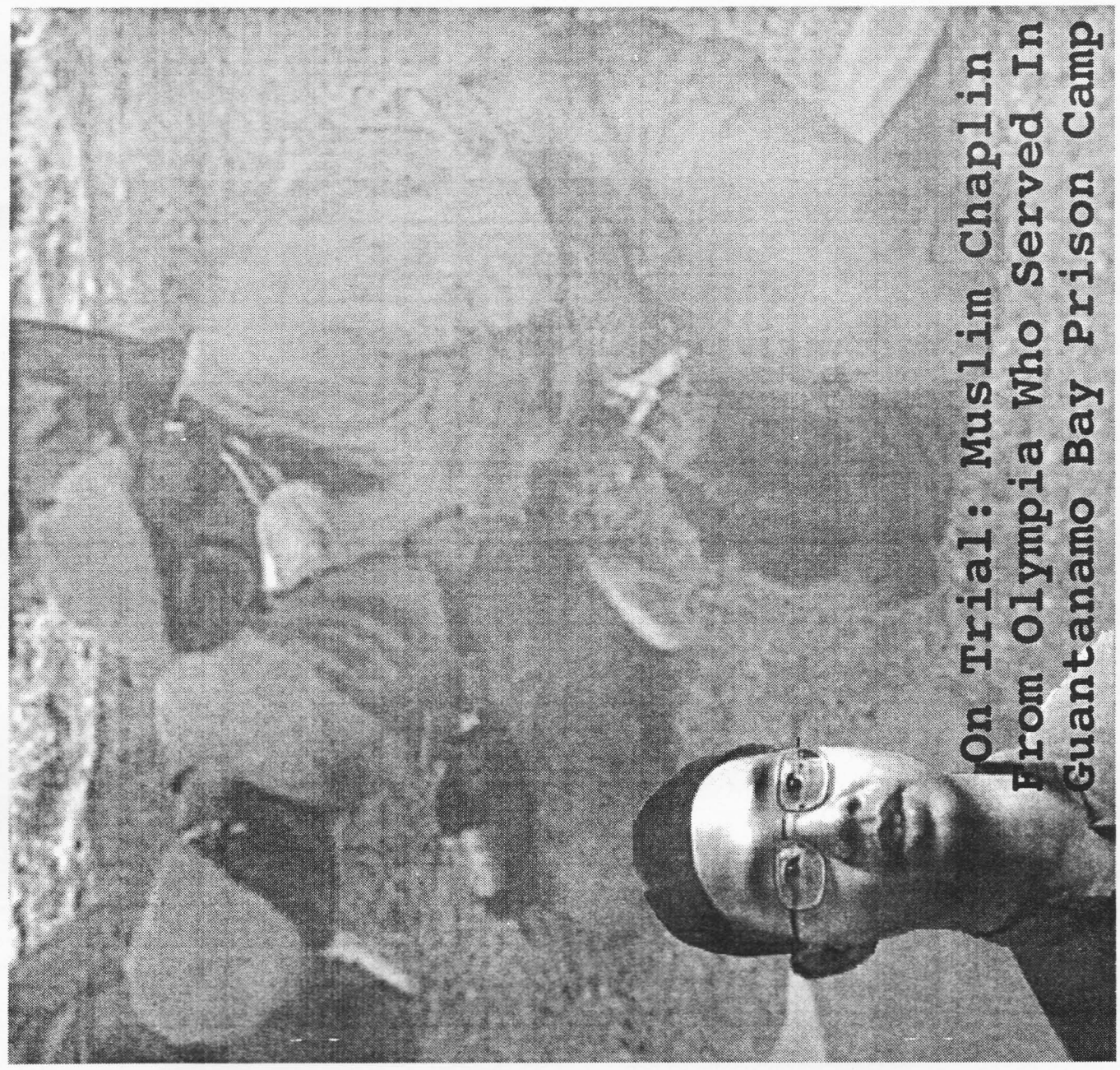
A
FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA TO THE SHORES
CENTCOM BRIEFING NEXT
M. MERRIOR

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

February 2004 free

Volume 14, Number 10



On Trial: Muslim Chaplin From Olympia Who Served In Guantanamo Bay Prison Camp

- 1 -
The Prosecution of Captain Yee & They Have Imprisoned The Gazebo In Sylvester Park

- 5 -
Patriot Act Watch

- 6 -
Instant Runoff Voting

- 7 -
What I Saw In Miami

- 8 -
My Friends Are Under Attach In Rafah

- 9 -
Worl Wide Protest Against War: March 20th

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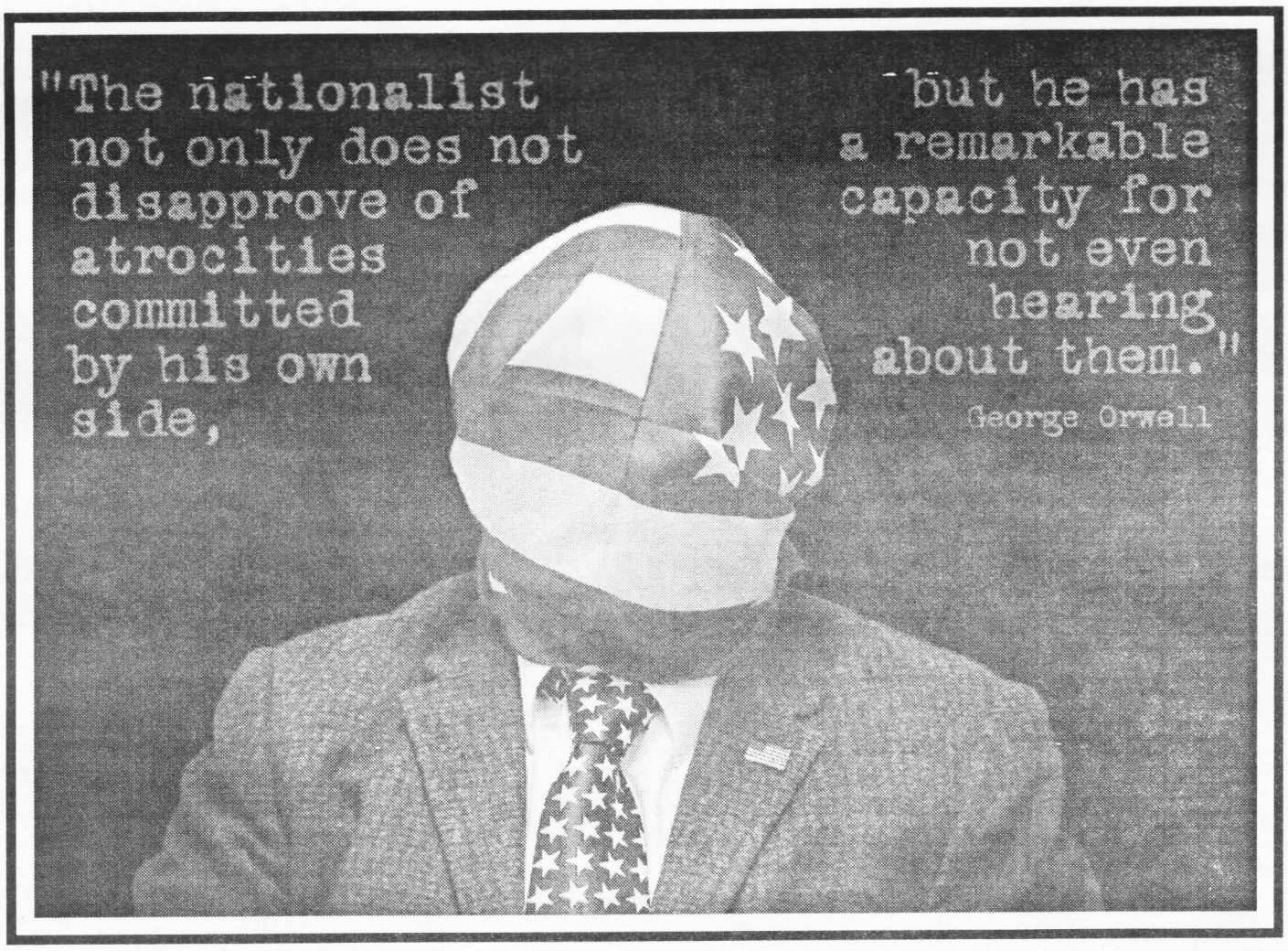
Thurston Jail Alternatives: Together, We Can Do Better!

- 11 -
Male Attitudes Key in Prevention of Violence Against Women

- 12 -
Variations On Antisemitism


"The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side,
but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them."
George Orwell

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507